



Butler

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AN ❖ ILLUSTRATED ❖ HAND ❖ BOOK.

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Compiled from the Official Statistics.

DESCRIPTIVE OF

BUTLER COUNTY
KANSAS.

ENDORSED BY THE

CITY ❖ OF ❖ EL DORADO

AND ITS BUSINESS MEN.

JANUARY, 1887.

EL DORADO, KANSAS:

DAILY AND WEEKLY REPUBLICAN, BY T. B. MURDOCK.

1887.

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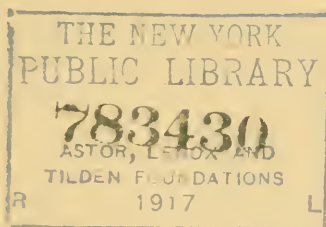
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THE SUNFLOWER STATE.



KANSAS is the Central State. It is two hundred miles wide by four hundred long and contains about fifty million acres of land, or about one acre for each person in the United States; or, as has been heretofore remarked, should the entire population of the United States be placed in Kansas, equi-distant, they would not be in ordinary speaking distance of each other.

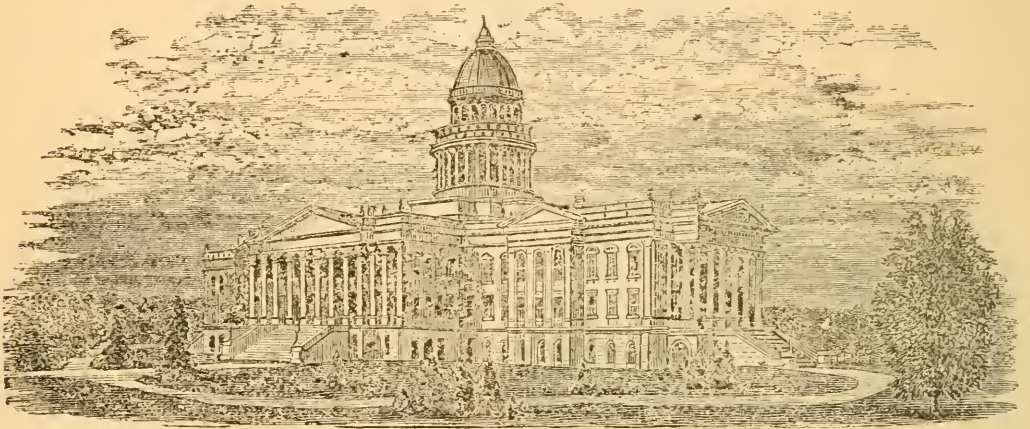
The population of the State, as ascertained by the last census, is about one million and a half, or, less than twenty persons to the square mile, including city and rural population.

Kansas is one of the foremost in agricultural resources, as has been abundantly proven by the marvelous productions of its soil for the last twenty-five years. It is one of the best stock-producing states, as is so well established in all the stock markets of the country; and it is among the first as a corn-growing state, as is shown by its twelve successive corn crops without a failure. Cattle and hogs, corn and wheat are the principal products, with a brilliant record in almost everything else which grows from the soil. We have taken the first premiums on fruits, wherever and whenever we have chosen to enter in competition with other states; and in all that goes to make a rich and prosperous agricultural community we take the lead.

The fact that the pioneers have met with such abundant success in the growing of crops and in the production of stock, and the further fact that there are millions of acres of low priced lands still remaining, and awaiting the advent of those who desire to come in and possess them at a nominal price, should attract the attention of every man who contemplates a home in the great and growing west.

Any ordinary observer who possesses the most superficial knowledge of the western half of the United States must see that within a very few years all the first-class agricultural lands will have passed into the hands of actual settlers; and he must also see that with this condition of things choice farm lands will rapidly advance in price.

The Government no longer has first-class agricultural lands to offer free to the homesteader, as they are practically all taken up and the person who in the future desires to possess a farm of his own, must purchase it from those other than from the Government. And as Kansas has a very large area of first-class lands, to be had at nominal prices, the opportunities for the investor or actual settler to obtain the best lands for the least money, are nowhere equalled in any of the western states or territories.



STATE CAPITOL, TOPEKA, KANSAS.

It is hardly necessary to repeat here, what has so often been said before, concerning our natural resources, although it might be emphasized without elaboration.

A large portion of the state is underlaid with the very best of limestone, which is not only largely utilized for all classes of buildings at home but is shipped out of the state for first-class buildings in the larger cities.

A considerable area is underlaid with a good quality of bituminous coal, while we have inexhaustible beds to the east, south and west of us, so that the question of fuel for domestic and manufacturing purposes is already solved.

The state is abundantly supplied with rivers and smaller streams of pure running water.

And for soil and climate the state has no superior anywhere.

Being central, the state is traversed by several of the greatest systems of Railways on the continent, so that in the near future it will be the broad highway for at least three lines which travel the continent from ocean to ocean.

No state possesses greater possibilities, no commonwealth has a brighter future, no area offers more promising inducements to those who desire homes, or who wish to invest their money in choice lands at minimum prices.

Of the fifty million acres of land in the state but thirty-three millions are taxable, the remaining seventeen millions being largely in the possession of the homesteader. Of these taxable acres but eleven millions are under cultivation,

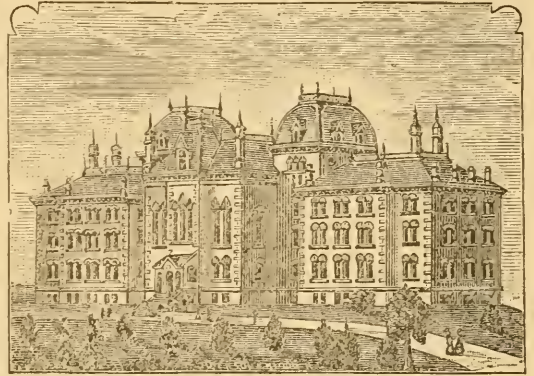
showing that seventy-five per cent of all the lands in the state is yet unimproved.

The taxable valuation of all real estate is one hundred and forty-two millions. The town property is valued at forty-six millions, the Railway property is assessed at thirty-five millions, while the personal property is valued at fifty-five millions, giving us a grand total of over two hundred and seventy-five millions of taxable property in the state.

We have about five thousand miles of completed Railway, which is assessed at an average of seven thousand dollars per mile. These figures will convey to the mind of the reader some idea of the financial and taxable condition of the state, which must be of interest to all those who contemplate becoming citizens.

The growth of the state has been phenomenal. Twenty-five years ago there was comparatively nothing west of the Missouri, and little west of the Mississippi. Where there are now thousands of well cultivated farms there were then roaming Indians and buffalo. Where there are hundreds of business marts, whose transactions run into the millions, the foot-fall of civilization had never been heard a quarter of a century ago. Kansas is the most prosperous, the most popular and booming state in the Union. A parallel to its growth and prosperity can not be found in the annals of recorded time.

The million and a half of people who have been transferred from less attractive and less fortunate sections to happy, sunny, vigorous Kansas, nearly all of them rejoice in the change, and yet there is room for millions more:

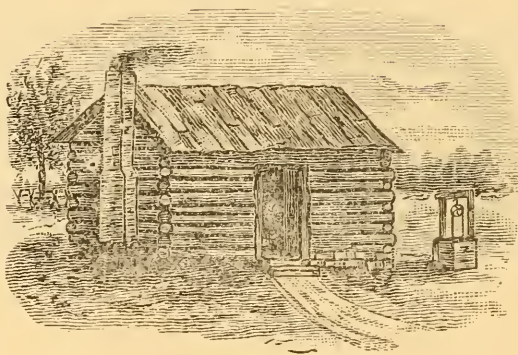


STATE UNIVERSITY, LAWRENCE, KANSAS.



FIRST TERRITORIAL COUNCIL HOUSE.

THE COUNTY OF BUTLER.



FIRST COURT HOUSE IN BUTLER COUNTY.

SITUATED in the south-central portion of the State, and thirty-five miles north of the Indian Territory is BUTLER COUNTY, a description of which, including its towns, railways, manufactories, farm and stock interests, its lands, and its streams, its horticultural adaptabilities, and its peculiar advantages as a desirable place in which to live, will be found in these pages.

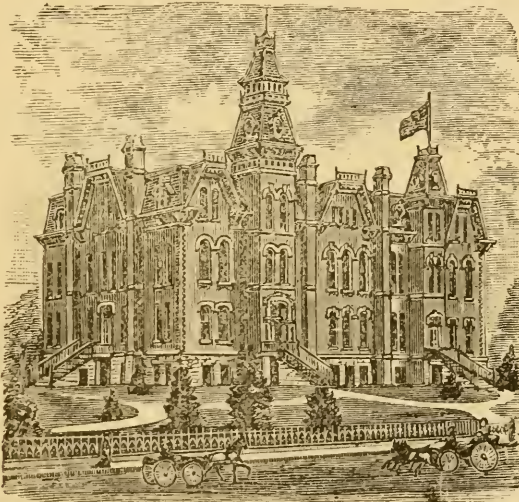
Very many people in the eastern states have a half-formed notion that they will "go west," but not having any specific knowledge of any given locality, having no friends or acquaintances in the west and not looking upon the many glowing descriptions of Kansas and other western states with any degree of confidence, they continue to postpone the matter, yet hoping that something may turn up which will enlighten them. To this end these descriptive pages are written. And in order that the reader may know that the facts set forth are true, and that the object to be attained is laudable, we will say that the business men, bankers and other responsible citizens of EL DORADO have directed the preparation of this work and its reliability cannot well be questioned.

The fact that we have a million acres of land within the borders of this county, that the total population is less than thirty thousand, that the town and rural population inclusive is less than thirty to the square mile, that the county is practically undeveloped, there being hundreds of thousands of acres which

have not yet been touched with a plow, and the belief that a complete development of the county will not only contribute largely to the prosperity of those who are already here, but will equally benefit those who are to come, and are coming, are the motives which inspire these pages.

There can be no possible motive in holding out inducements to people to come here and secure homes when we know that actual experience will not sustain us in what we say; and, therefore, as a first suggestion, we advise people to come first, and make an examination; and if not convinced that what we say is true, go elsewhere.

The lonely squatter looks forward to the day when he will have neighbors; the village is ambitious to be a town; the town a city. Life is not all made up with money making and money getting. And while we have villages and towns, schools and churches and all the social privileges of a sparsely settled country, yet we will not have arrived at a point where it is possible to warrant the greatest good to the greatest number till we shall have secured a population equal to that of many of the older settled states; and until this point is reached we shall con-



STATE NORMAL SCHOOL, EMPORIA.

tinue from time to time to fairly present to our friends the peculiar advantages of this great county.

HISTORICAL AND STATISTICAL.

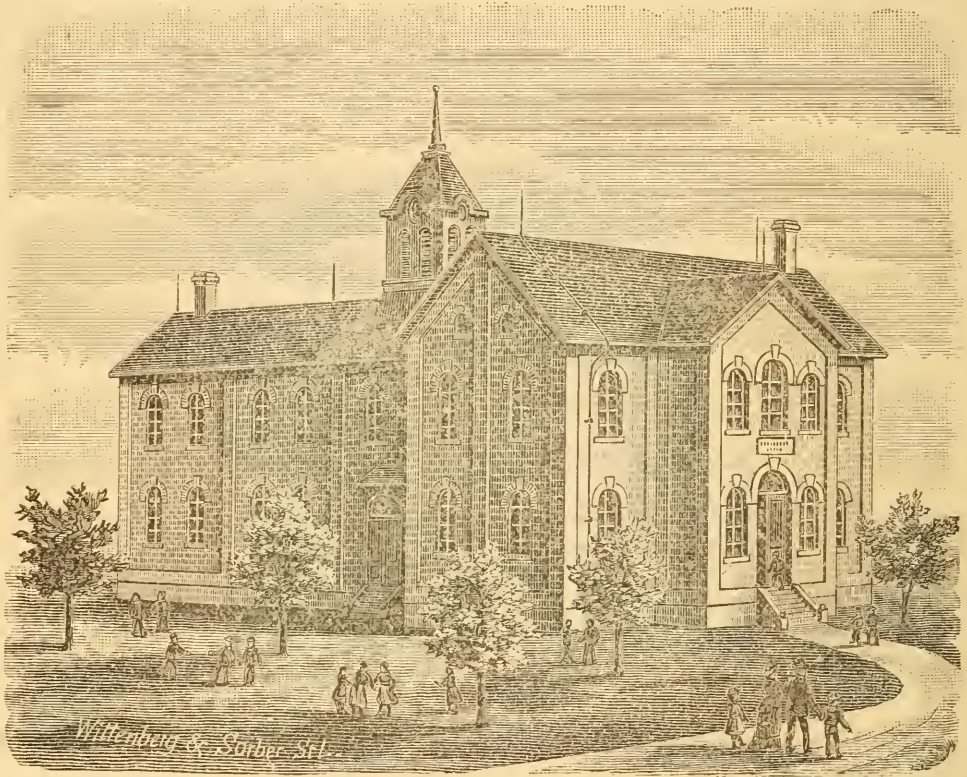
It is hardly necessary for us to enter upon any detailed history of Butler County, as that is not pertinent to the question under consideration. The fact that until after the close of the war but few people were to be found within its borders, and that its real settlement commenced about the year 1870, will answer the purpose. Up to that time it was a boundless sea of "prairie grass and sunshine," with an occasional settler near the streams. Previous to that time wild buffalo roamed over it at will, while to all intents and purposes this vast region, which includes the Arkansas river and its tributaries, was simply a mutual hunting ground for both Indians and whites.

The Osage Lands, which were thrown into market the year before, caused thousands of pioneers to seek homes in this valley; and the fact that they came,

that they have remained, that other thousands have joined them, and that these people, without money and many of them without great experience, have created millions in values, have turned a wild and uninhabited region into farms and ranches, and all by the cultivation of the soil and the growing of stock, is certainly overwhelming proof that the land is productive almost beyond computation.

Some of the old settlers of the "sixties" are still here, while those of the "seventies" are numerous. The fact that they are all here, that they are among the foremost in wealth in the county, is further proof that the earth and the elements conspire to bless and prosper the tiller of the soil.

We have tried to show that it is proper, legitimate and honorable for those who are already here to desire the county settled up; and as we do not wish to advise our eastern friends to buy "a pig in a poke," nor to induce them to take any



CENTRAL SCHOOL BUILDING, EL DORADO.

chances, we simply ask them to come out and see us. We will endeavor to show you around among the neighbors and will permit you to form your own opinions.

But in the meantime, it will be our pleasure to go somewhat into detail concerning Butler County and its interests so you will be better prepared to judge of its possibilities before you undertake the journey.

According to the official statistics, taken from the County Clerk's office, we have, in round numbers, nine hundred thousand acres of taxable land in Butler County. This land is appraised, for taxable purposes, at a nominal price coper acre. Of this vast domain but 235,618 acres are under cultivation. Or, in ruother words, but one-fourth of the land in this county is under plow. If we have is a population of 30,000 now cannot this county comfortably maintain one hundred thousand people when it is thoroughly developed? And would not the added

population and consequent wealth be of direct advantage to all? We think it would.

Upon this nominal appraisalment per acre our real estate is valued at three millions. The absolute value of the real estate in this county is nearer ten millions.

The personal property in this county is assessed upon a basis of one million dollars.

In the way of live stock, which goes to make up a portion of our personal property, we have:

	<i>Number.</i>	<i>Valuation.</i>
Horses	10,540	\$263,561
Cattle	46,337	358,031
Sheep	57,453	25,337
Hogs	25,101	29,538
		<hr/>
		\$676,467

These figures will afford the reader some idea of the number of farm animals as well as the basis of assessment and taxation in the county.

ASSESSMENT AND TAXATION.

All personal property is put on the assessment rolls at from one-third to one-fifth its intrinsic value, so that upon a basis of true values our per cent. would be very low indeed. Glittering generalities will answer very well, sometimes, but in setting forth the actual advantages of this county we propose to deal very largely in facts so that the reader may not be misled.

The valuation of all property in the county, for taxable purposes, is, in round numbers, as follows:

Real Estate.....	\$ 3,000,000
Town Lots.....	600,000
Personal Property.....	1,000,000
Railway Property.....	1,000,000
	<hr/>
Total taxable property.....	\$ 5,600,000

Western people have generally maintained that it is better to keep out of debt than to assume burdens which necessitates the payment of increased taxes, and Butler county is no exception to this rule.

EDUCATIONAL.

From the Fourth Biennial Report of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction we learn that there are 6,706 organized school districts in Kansas, with a total school population of 411,250. We employ 8,221 teachers at an average monthly salary of \$32.85. The total amount received for all school purposes, during the year 1884, was \$3,392,050.35. What a munificent sum for a young State like Kansas to expend for school purposes!

The annual interest from our State school fund amounts to \$1,000,000, or 76 cents per capita for the entire school population of the State.

The total school population of Butler County in 1884 was 8,272; we employed 196 teachers at an average salary for males of \$40 per month, females \$36.66 per

month, our total school expenses for the year being \$70,436.49. In traveling over this great county one is scarcely ever out of sight of a school house. Our people being enterprising and intelligent, are not forgetful of the fact that to educate the children is the first duty of the State. But it is not necessary to discuss our school facilities any further here. We have built school houses just as we have built churches and railroads. They are a necessary adjunct to a high state of civilization and we must have them.

In the Fourth Biennial Report of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, we learn that there were 149 school districts in this county, that we have 151 school buildings, 172 school rooms valued at \$111,380. It will be observed that while we have been building school houses very rapidly we have not neglected to collect in the way of taxes a large sum of money which has been used to pay for them.

As further evidence of our great interest in educational matters, we refer to our State University at Lawrence, State Normal School at Emporia, State Agricultural College at Manhattan, all handsomely endowed with lands, besides a dozen or more universities, colleges, academies and normal schools built and voluntarily supported by the people of the State.

Our permanent State school fund of nearly three million dollars was obtained from the sale of school lands and the fact that we have invested this money in bonds of the various school districts of the State, is suggestive of a financial policy in keeping with the broad gauged intelligence of our people.

OUR RAILWAY SYSTEM.

Butler is one of our largest counties, being forty-two miles long by thirty-four wide, and contains more miles of railway than any other county in the state. There are in Kansas five systems of railway, as follows: The Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe; the Missouri Pacific; the St. Louis & San Francisco; the Union Pacific, and the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific. Three of these systems traverse this county, with both main lines and branches; while the first, the Rock Island, is under contract to build, and is building, through the northwest portion of the county.

The Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe leaves the Colorado line at Florence and traverses the county from north to south, passing through De Graff, El Dorado, Augusta, Gordon and Douglass, connecting at Arkansas City with the main line of this road which will be completed and cars running through the Indian Territory to Galveston, Texas, by May 1st, 1887. This company is also building a road from Ellinor, a station on their main western line west of Emporia, via Sycamore Springs and Chelsea townships, this county, to connect with their Galveston road at El Dorado. They are also preparing to build a short link from Mulvane, Sumner county, to connect the Santa Fe and Southern Kansas systems with the Galveston line, near Augusta or Douglass. With these connections completed, the Walnut Valley Road becomes one of the most important trunk roads west of the Mississippi river.

The St. Louis, Fort Scott and Wichita Road, which is a main trunk line of the Missouri Pacific system, in this State, passes directly across the county from east to west, through the towns of Rosalia, Pontiac, El Dorado, Towanda and Benton, to Wichita. This company has also a line connecting with the main trunk at El Dorado, which passes northwest through the towns of Potwin and Brainerd,

to Newton and McPherson. Northwest of the last named place it will connect with the Rocky Mountain line of the Missouri Pacific system.

The St. Louis & San Francisco Road is built directly across the south-central portion of the county, passing through the towns of Beaumont, Keighley, Leon, Haverhill, Augusta and Andover to Wichita. This road has a branch from Beaumont via Latham and Wingate to Winfield and Arkansas City.

We have, therefore, 152.43 miles of completed railway in this county, as follows:

<i>Name of Road.</i>	<i>No. of Miles.</i>
Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe, (El Dorado Road).....	42.56
St. Louis & San Francisco.....	36.21
Missouri Pacific, main line.....	35.11
Missouri Pacific, El Dorado & Newton Division.....	20.18
St. Louis & San Francisco, Beaumont Line.....	18.37
Total miles.....	152.43

We therefore have three separate and distinct lines to St. Louis, Kansas City and Chicago; one trunk line to the Rocky Mountains and the Pacific coast, and



BUTLER COUNTY'S PRESENT COURT HOUSE, IN EL DORADO.

two more under construction; and one main trunk line under construction to Galveston and the Gulf of Mexico.

In addition to these we have the Fort Smith, El Dorado & Northwestern road under contract, and which will have an hundred miles of track laid before December 31st, 1887. This new line is to be built from Fort Smith, Arkansas, northwest via Leon & El Dorado through Marion county.

A charter has been taken out for the El Dorado, Oklahoma & Chihuahua Road and franchises are being rapidly worked up for this project.

The Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific is building from Topeka to Wichita and this road will pass through the townships of Fairmount and Milton, touching the town of Brainerd; while the Kansas, Colorado & Texas Railroad, has already secured bonds for their Kansas City & Wichita line through Clifford and Milton townships.

Of the twenty-nine municipal townships in the county, twenty-four have already one or more lines of Railway, actually constructed, or under contract, thus giving us a system of Railway fully equal to that in many counties in the older settled states. And, we might remark in this connection, that these lines are valued for taxable purposes in this county, at nearly one million dollars, and consequently pay about one-sixth of our entire taxes.

TOPOGRAPHY.

A large area of eastern Kansas is underlaid with blue limestone. A line drawn north and south through the towns of Eureka, Emporia and Seneca practically defines the western limits of this blue limestone strata. Immediately



EXCHANGE NATIONAL BANK, EL DORADO.

west of this, an area varying from twenty-five to fifty miles in width, is what is usually termed the magnesia limestone belt; and still west of this is the sandy soil, with only occasional out-croppings of stone of any kind. This belt includes the western half of the State.

Entering Butler County from the east the magnesian limestone is encountered in the range of hills which divides it from Greenwood. This formation obtains in all portions of the county and only begins to disappear as we approach the Sedgwick county line on the west and enter the sandy formation of the Arkansas Valley. Sand is found in the bed of the Whitewater while none is found in the Walnut.

This magnesian stone is not only found in regular formation along the streams, but is also found a few feet under the surface of the ground in every township in the county. It is a comparatively soft stone, of a yellowish white color, easily worked. It is largely used at home for houses, barns, corrals, fences, culverts abutments for bridges and is shipped east and west for building purposes. Our State house, the Government building at Topeka, and many other prom-

inent structures in the State, are built of magnesian limestone. While this stone is so abundant, and so easily obtained, it is nevertheless true that of the 1,500 square miles of territory in the county, but a very small per cent. of the soil is rendered uncultivable by its presence.

The State Board of Agriculture divides our county into bottom lands, second bottom and uplands or prairie. Fifteen per cent. of the area is bottom land, the



GENERAL A. W. ELLET'S OPERA HOUSE, EL DORADO.

valleys of rivers and creeks averaging one and three-quarter miles in width. Streams are abundant. In fact it is one of the best watered counties in the State. By actual count there are twenty-three streams of water in the county, which never go dry. Along their banks are to be found walnut, elm, oak, hickory, hackberry, cottonwood and other varieties of natural timber.

Many fine springs are found in various portions of the county, some of them

affording a volume of water sufficient to furnish water power for machinery. In no portion of the State are springs so abundant.

The Walnut river, which has its source in the northeast, and which flows southwesterly through the county, crossing its southern border near Douglass, is the principal stream. It is fed by springs, is a clear running stream, with gravelly or stone bed and affords an abundance of black bass, channel cat, buffalo and other varieties of fish as do all the other streams in the county. Its tributaries are: White Water river, flowing south and joining the Walnut at Augusta; West Branch of White Water, emptying into the main White Water near Towanda; Four Mile, Eight Mile and Polecat creeks, all flowing southeast; Rock, Muddy, Little Walnut, Turkey, Bird, Satchell, Durachen, Harrison, and Coal creeks all flowing southwest. Indianola, Meadow Branch and Henry creeks flow southeast into the White Water, while Baker creek flows southwest into the same river. Hickory creek flows west into the Little Walnut. All these streams are skirted with timber, possessing practically the same characteristics.

MUNICIPAL INDEBTEDNESS.

Butler County has never issued any bonds and has no outstanding obligations whatever; but, on the other hand, has always had sufficient money in the treasury to meet its liabilities. Our court house, which was built some years ago, is paid for. The dozens of iron and stone bridges spanning our streams were paid for when built, it being the policy of the county government to keep out of debt. One would naturally conclude that the cost of so many actual necessities, incident to a new country, would necessarily involve the people in a burdensome debt but such has not been the case in this county. A careful, prudent, conservative policy was adopted at the start and the injunction to "keep out of debt" has ever been present when public matters were to be considered. We have largely paid for our school buildings and churches, and have defeated every proposition which had for its object the bonding of our county. Consequently our taxes are low.

AGRICULTURE.

The pioneers of all our western states turn their attention first to corn, and afterwards to wheat, oats and other grain. Corn is the main crop to-day in Illinois, Missouri, Iowa, Nebraska and Kansas, and that it will continue to be for years to come, can scarcely be questioned. Corn to the farmer means meat and bread. It means fat hogs, and pork for the summer season; it means fat cows and plenty of butter and milk; it means fat horses for early spring work; it means healthy chickens and plenty of eggs. In fact with the first corn crop in the crib the farmer is on the road to prosperity.

From the reports of the Agricultural Bureau at Washington and from statistics of the various State Boards of Agriculture, it will be observed that Kansas is one of the very foremost corn growing states. From the time the early settlers in the "fifties" commenced with "hog and hominy" on the borders of Missouri, up to and including the present when we count our bushels by the hundreds of millions, corn has practically been King of all the crops. Winter wheat has sought to divide the honors and in some counties takes the lead, but after all corn is the principal agricultural product of our county and State.

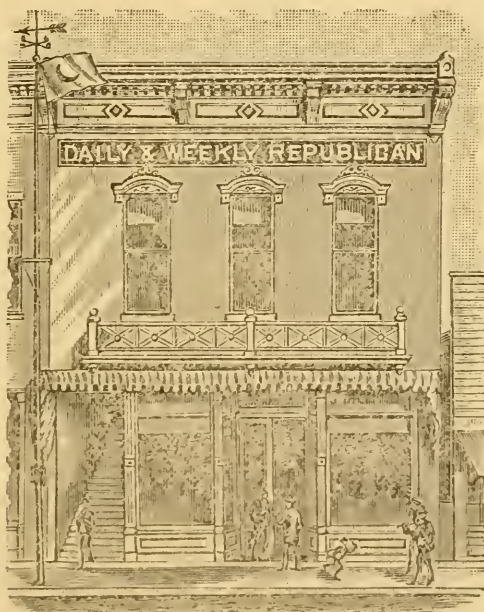
The fact that our farmers have grown twelve successive corn crops without a

failure, that the average yield is often enormous, while in the most unpropitious seasons the crop is up to the average of many of the eastern states, is the inspiration which impels our farmers to grow corn.

We have farmers here, who for years lived in the Scioto and Miami valleys of Ohio; we have them from the Wabash country in Indiana, from Egypt and from all the famous corn districts of Illinois, and we have them from Iowa, Missouri and Nebraska and the unanimous verdict is that Kansas beats all these noted localities in the quantity and quality of her corn. Of the three hundred thousand acres of land in this county actually under plow, corn is grown on one hundred and fifty thousand acres, wheat on thirty to fifty thousand, oats fifteen thousand, millet and hungarian thirteen thousand.

Winter wheat is a great crop and thirty, forty and even fifty bushels to the acre have been reported. Our limestone subsoil is peculiarly adapted to the wheat plant and many farmers make it their principal crop. Kansas winter wheat brings the highest prices in all the markets, while Kansas flour has a world-wide reputation.

We also cultivate barley, buckwheat, Irish and sweet potatoes, castor beans,



"REPUBLICAN" BUILDING, EL DORADO.

flax, rice, corn, sorghum, broom corn, timothy, clover, blue grass, and, in fact, almost every kind of grain, fruit or vegetable that is grown from the soil. With our rich soil and splendid climate, a failure in anything is not often recorded.

POPULATION.

There are twenty-nine municipal townships in this county, twenty of them being six miles square. Statistics show that the people who reside here are largely from the states of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Iowa and Pennsylvania, and yet we have representatives from almost every state in the Union, including a small number of foreigners.

In the northwestern portion of the county are a number of Prussians who

are well to do, owning large tracts of land, living in fine houses, their farms as a rule, being well improved. In the townships of Bloomington and Walnut we have what is called a "Kentucky settlement," a number of families from that state residing there. A larger per cent of volunteer soldiers of the late war reside in Kansas than in any other. While the county is largely Republican in politics, party lines are not often clearly drawn. It might be said, with much truth, that our people are inclined to forget politics in their efforts to improve their farms and homes and obtain a competency.

We present, herewith an alphabetical list of the townships in the county, together with the population and taxable valuation of each, as ascertained from the assessment rolls of 1886:—

<i>Townships.</i>	<i>Population.</i>	<i>Taxable Valuation.</i>
Augusta.....	2,437	\$356,684.86
Benton.....	1,025	186,067.92
Bloomington.....	615	101,951.00
Bruno.....	804	169,207.84
Chelsea.....	486	193,733.00
Clay.....	446	55,598.00
Clifford.....	595	116,412.00
Douglass.....	1,836	271,100.98
El Dorado.....	6,630	806,533.66
Fairmount.....	744	117,927.00
Fairview.....	463	117,089.71
Glencoe.....	1,056	172,567.82
Hickory.....	667	124,500.74
Lincoln.....	314	281,256.70
Little Walnut.....	1,507	204,640.60
Logan.....	492	64,140.17
Milton.....	821	210,141.17
Murdock.....	539	117,506.14
Pleasant.....	762	120,518.00
Plum Grove.....	650	127,941.24
Prospect.....	1,006	249,336.37
Richland.....	684	139,920.00
Rock Creek.....	526	97,369.00
Rosalia.....	829	154,404.65
Spring.....	833	158,390.29
Sycamore.....	471	184,053.00
Towanda.....	835	153,995.58
Union.....	870	133,849.63
Walnut.....	679	171,118.16

From these figures it will be observed that the rural population is rather evenly distributed over the county. The only exceptions are in the townships of Lincoln, Sycamore and Chelsea. The lands in these townships came into market at an early day and before the homestead law was passed, consequently they were bought from the Government in large tracts. They include many thousand acres of our best lands and are to be had at comparatively low figures.

For convenience we have given the taxable valuation of the county by townships, in connection with the population. It will be noticed by an examination of the map that property of all kinds is appraised upon an equal basis.



CITY BUILDING, EL DORADO.

FOREST AND FRUIT TREES.

While we have been busily engaged in other things we have not neglected the planting of fruit and forest trees. Our township assessors are required by law,

while assessing property in the spring, to gather all kinds of farm and stock statistics. These are tabulated and sent to the State Board of Agriculture; and by this means the public is informed of all matters in which they can have any interest; and from these tables we gather the figures for these pages. We had in bearing in this county, last year, 60,000 apple trees, 2,000 pear trees, 350,000 peach, 25,000, plum and 25,000 cherry trees. When we come to give the number of trees, not in bearing, it will hardly be believed and yet the number of all varieties foots up nearly a million. What a magnificent fruit county this is soon to be. We grow winter apples which keep over till the following May, and we grow the largest, the best flavored and the finest looking fruit that is produced anywhere. We took first prize at the centennial, and have taken a number of first premiums from State and Horticultural societies on our fine fruits. There are several large nurseries in the county, a live Horticultural Society, with hundreds of farmers engaged exclusively in fruit growing. A farm without an orchard, can scarcely be found. Large, rapid growing and thrifty fruit trees are found on almost every farm, while many are putting out twenty, forty and fifty acres of fruit trees. Nor are we behind in small fruits. Strawberries, raspberries and blackberries grow to perfection, while our grapes are equal to the best productions of Italy or California. There is scarcely anything grown anywhere that does not find a place in our county. While forest trees do not properly come under this head, we want to say that we have over twenty thousand acres of artificial forest growing on our prairies, which number is being largely added to each year. As nature failed to supply us with trees, we have concluded it our duty to supply the deficiency. The timber area in other states is rapidly decreasing. In Kansas it is increasing.

The rapid development of the west and its splended growth in everything that goes to make wealth is overthrowing the slow and plodding methods of the east, and infusing new blood into the control of the affairs of the country. The day is coming rapidly when the West will be the king, and when western interests will rule the country. The giant strides of our railroad and other enterprises prove this as surely as day follows night. All great railroads come into or pass through Kansas. In this new condition of things—this new western empire—Kansas will be the center. She is to become the most populous and wealthy state in the union, and be the seat of our greatest enterprises. He who does not see this is blind to the waves of promise that start at the Atlantic and Pacific and meet to dispense their favors in Kansas. The day of greatest things for our state is just coming.

Every year the order goes out and is announced through the state, "Plant trees," "Plant trees," and how enthusiastically the command has been obeyed, let the thousands of groves and blooming orchards which now adorn our once treeless plains, testify. And so cheerfully has the earth responded to the touch of the wand of labor, that our early planters sit in the shade of their own trees or partake of the delicious fruit. What an effect this and other agencies have had upon our rainfall. The average rainfall for the ten years 1854-1863, was 23.41 inches; for the second ten years—1864-1873, it had increased to 26.46 inches, giving an average increase of 3.05 inches per annum, while the record for the third decade shows a like increase. We are rapidly reaching a period in this country when the cultivation of trees will be as much a matter of business as the growing of corn. Kansas is a wonderful field for fruit culture and the direction of her Horticultural interests is happily in the hands of cultivated, thoughtful and

experienced men and women who know no such word as fail in this undertaking.

In the timbered states there is a growing sentiment against the wasteful destruction of timber, but as this sentiment conflicts with the self-interests of the destroyers, slow progress is made. We in the West can say to the East, "Go ahead, and chop down your forests; dry up your streams, and convert your hill-sides into gullies; but we, of the West, will make trees grow where you say it is still a desert; we will bring depth and a constant flow to our streams; we are changing the sky itself, and are making it rain where it did not before, even up to the very foot of the Rocky Mountains.

HORSES AND MULES.

In early times we commenced farming with native Indian ponies, Texas bronchos and such inferior animals as could be obtained from our Missouri friends; but of late years we have imported many good horses. We might remark that the production of fine horses and mules is attracting the attention of our people, and it will not be many years till we will stand in the front rank in the number of fine horses grown. To supply the military department



WINGERT BLOCK, EL DORADO.

of our Government with the best of horses and mules is the incentive that causes many to turn their attention to the growing of first-class horses and mules. Kansas offers a fortune to all who want to engage in this industry. Cheap lands, fine pasturage, oats, corn, timothy, clover and millet for feed with good prices for all good animals, should induce many eastern people to come here to engage in this branch of stock raising. The demand for horses and mules will be greater than the supply for many years, or until these millions acres of lands are made into farms, until the Government no longer needs military posts on the frontier, and until man ceases to have a desire to possess a fine horse or a perfect mule. Our grasses are equal to those of the famous blue-grass regions of Kentucky.

We have the Norman, Clydesdale, and representatives of other strains to produce from, and it has been stated by those who have the actual knowledge, that horses from a western mare and a fine Norman or Clydesdale horse, are the nearest perfection, not only for beauty, but for speed and endurance, of any that are produced in the world.

OUR CATTLE INTERESTS.

In the year 1541—please note the date—Francisco Vasquez de Coronado, a Spaniard, commanded an expedition, which marched from Mexico to the northern boundary of Kansas, and in his report he said:

“The earth is the best possible for all kinds of productions of Spain; for while it is very strong and black, it is very well watered by brooks, springs and rivers. We traversed mighty plains and sandy heaths, smooth and wearisome, and bare of wood. All that way the plains are as full of *crooked back oxen* as the Mountain Sarena in Spain is of Sheep.”

M. Dutisne, a French officer, found the prairies of what is now Kansas, abounding in buffalo in 1719. Lewis and Clark and other explorers of this region, speak of “the illimitable sea of rich, nutritious grass, upon which vast herds of buffalo, deer, antelope and other animals roam at will.”

For three hundred years our State has been the home of the buffalo, the wild cattle and horses of the plains and, since civilization began, it is recognized and acknowledged to be the real center of the great cattle interests of the west. In early times vast herds of cattle roamed over our prairies at will, finding their own living the year round. Since the advent of the farmer there is but little change, except in the introduction of better grades of stock. Here we find the native, the Short Horn, the Hereford, Polled Angus, Jerseys, and all other strains of full blood and high grade cattle in their perfection. Stock is turned upon the prairie pastures in April or May and for seven or eight months of the year need practically no other attention. They grow and thrive upon our nutritious grasses, the three and four year old steers being turned upon the market after weighing from fifteen hundred to two thousand pounds and as fat as butter. Diseases of any kind are scarcely known, the climate, the water and the natural food being adapted to the rapid production and growth of all kinds of stock.

Butler is the fourth county in the State in the number of cattle and in the quality it stands first.

The mortality record for the years 1884-5 furnish the best proof in the world of the healthfulness of domestic animals in this county. A statement, unaccompanied by proof, is not always convincing, so we furnish the proof as follows: Mortality record for 1885:—horses, 1.74 per cent; mules, 1.08 per cent; milch cows, 1.14 per cent; other cattle, 1.63 per cent; sheep, 1.89 per cent; swine, 2.62 per cent.

By comparing these figures with those of other counties in other states, it will be admitted that the average losses in all kinds of animals produced here are very low indeed. If gentlemen wish to engage in any branch of stock growing, they cannot find any better place on earth than Butler County.

Eastern people who want more land, or who have half a dozen sons for whom they wish to obtain farms or stock ranches, should not hesitate to visit our county at once.

OUR SHEEP INDUSTRY.

Butler is the foremost county in the State in the production of sheep, there being nearly sixty thousand head in the county on the first day of last March. What has been said in regard to the adaptability of our climate and native grasses to the production of cattle, is equally applicable to the sheep industry. We have brought in the best blood from Vermont, Canada, Ohio and Illinois, and are now supplying these states with improved animals for breeding. Our fine winters, with the abundance of feed, clear running water, easy of access, and, the absence of long cold rains, gives us a greater per cent. of healthy lambs than are produced anywhere. Here are to be found some of the very best flocks in the country both for wool producing and for mutton. Some of our farmers have been engaged in growing fine sheep, for a number of years, and they find it very profitable. The wool clip for the past year was about half a million pounds, including the several grades.

Eastern parties, who are engaged in sheep husbandry, and who may want specific information about the growing of sheep, the breeds which are produced



WASHINGTON STREET SCHOOL HOUSE, EL DORADO.

with the greatest profit, or any facts in connection with the subject, will be cheerfully supplied with such information by applying to any of the business men whose names appear in these pages.

THE HERD LAW.

An Angel of the Lord appeared in the gate of the Garden of Eden, after Adam and Eve had been driven out, to prevent intruders from entering its sacred precincts. This of course, pre-supposes that the Garden was fenced, but whether with stone, Osage orange or Barbed wire, is not stated. From that time on down through the generations, the human race have built fences to prevent trespass from man and beast. It remained for the people of Kansas to suggest an innovation upon this relic of the dark ages, and they did it by securing the passage of a

Herd law. Under the provisions of the act, if a majority of the people of a county so elect, they secure the full operation of this law, which requires the owners of stock to take care of it. The farmer plows his land and plants his crop, while the owners of stock fence their pastures, or otherwise take care of their four footed animals. Without the Herd Law it would have been almost impossible to have settled these broad prairies.

Notwithstanding the law we have miles and miles of stone fence, Osage Orange hedge, with thousands of acres inclosed with barbed wire. Farmers are inclined to fence their premises as soon as they can afford it, although they are not required to do so. Stock men objected at first but they soon found that it was much more profitable to have their animals under the immediate care of herders or inclosed in pastures. Large ranches are inclosed with wire at a cost of \$100 per mile, and by a cheap system of clubbing together, the stock of a dozen farmers can be pastured all summer in one common enclosure at a nominal cost. The Herd Law is the salvation of a prairie country. These innovations on the old order of things suggests other important changes which must follow, the principal one of which must be in our commercial relations. Monied interests are every day becoming more diversified, and fortunes are accumulating in the west which cause the envy of eastern nabobs, who have so long held the money bags and ruled the financial interests of the country. We don't follow in anything. We lead.

SWINE.

A first class corn country is usually well adapted to the growing of hogs, and this finds no exception with us. In early times we bought the "rail splitters, or the razor backs" from Missouri, but of late years no stock is too high priced, no strains too valuable for introduction in our state, but the Berkshire and the Poland China predominate. Every farmer has hogs, and every farmer has the best to be had. A mangy hog, of inferior breed, can scarcely be found in the county or state; and now that clover and tame grass pastures are being introduced, the cheapness with which hogs can be produced is marvelous. Pigs are born strong and vigorous, and at nine or twelve months old even astonish their owners by their prodigious growth. In full-feeding cattle, during the winter months, hogs are put in the corrals or feeding lots with great profit. The State Board of Agriculture report for the present year nearly one million two hundred thousand in the state, or about one head for each inhabitant. Diseases incident to swine raising in the eastern states, are unknown here, and there is nothing in the way of a marvelous multiplication of the present number. Illinois farmers tell us they have much better success with hogs in Kansas than in that state, and with a great deal less care. As has been previously remarked cattle and pigs, wheat and corn are our principal products, none of the four industries being more profitable than the rearing of hogs.

Farmers are not breeding great heavy hogs to the extent that they formerly did. A well informed dealer says that three-fourths of the good hogs shipped to market were the result of crossing the Berkshires and Poland Chinas and that the average weight is about 250 pounds. It has often been said that a corn and hog country is nearer self-sustaining than any other. In breaking up the prairie, corn is planted in the sod with good results, and by introducing a few hogs the pioneer can see his way clear. In the twenty-five years of hog raising in Kansas

no disease of any kind is reported as originating here; while those incident to other states, which have been introduced by importation, have always disappeared in a very short time after introduction.

Eastern people will no doubt be surprised to learn that a number of fine boars have been shipped from Butler county to the states of Illinois, Missouri, Iowa and Nebraska, for breeding purposes within the past year.



J. T. OLDHAM'S FURNITURE HOUSE, EL DORADO.

APIACULTURE.

There are probably two hundred stands of bees in this county, with a growing tendency to largely increase the number. There was published in Cherokee county for six years a paper called the *Bee Keeper*; but it was removed to Missouri. There are some half dozen apiarian supply dealers in the state. Our stands have usually consisted of the old fashioned box hive, while it has been the rule to give the bees but little attention. R. W. Perkins of this city obtained in the year 1885 for ten hives an average of one hundred and ten pounds of honey to the hive, the greatest yield being one hundred and seventy-five pounds, the smallest thirty pounds. His average for the past three years being about forty pounds, with a steady increase, which is doubtless owing to the planting of clover and other honey flora. Bees winter well in single walled hives out doors, with the usual fall preparations. The greater amount of honey is gathered between the first of August and frost, principally from Golden Rod, Smart weed and Asters. The honey is of good quality, a golden yellow weighing about 12lbs per gallon does not granulate (or candy) on the first appearance of cold weather. Eastern friends wishing further information on this subject should address Mr. Perkins of this city.

HORTICULTURE.

Hon. J. W. Robison, President of the Butler County Horticultural Society, kindly furnishes us some observations on the subject of Horticulture which will be read with interest:

"Fruit growing in Butler county is yet in its infancy, but enough has been done to prove that healthy, smooth and very vigorous trees, and full crops of

large smooth and high colored, fine flavored fruit of the apple, peach, pear, plum, cherries, apricots, grapes, gooseberries, black berries, raspberries and strawberries can be, and are grown here in abundance. The country lying between the Flint Hills and the Arkansas river, seems to be especially favored in climate and soil to the peach, as we have been frequently favored with full crops of this luscious fruit, when other parts of even the favored state of Kansas has failed this crop. No country produces larger, finer flavored, higher colored apples than this country. We need none of the *iron-clad* so much writ-



MASONIC BLOCK, EL DORADO.

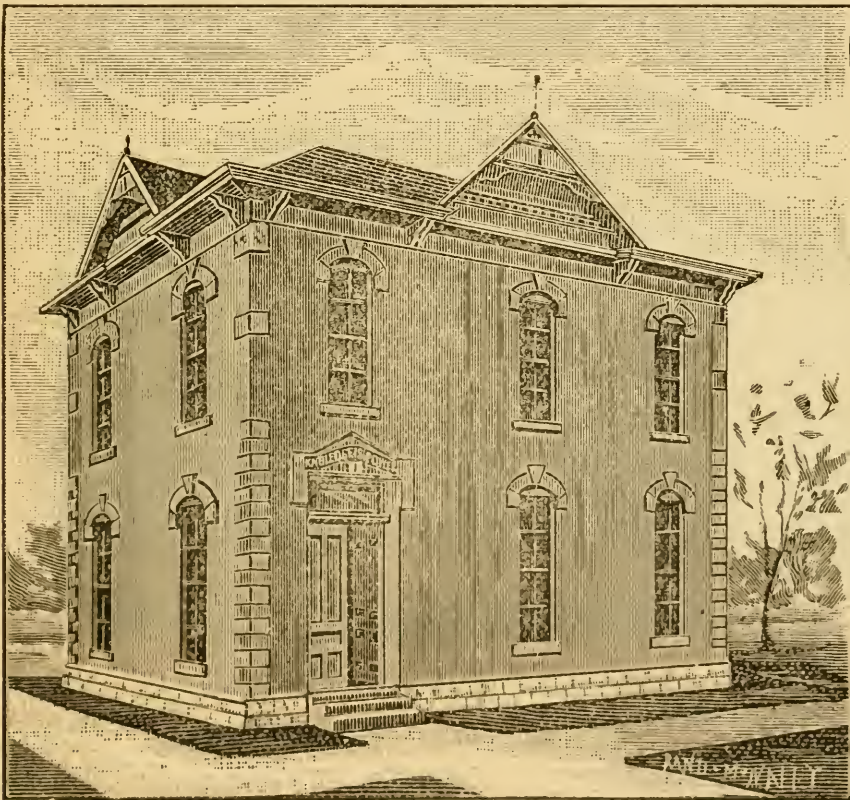
ten and talked of to the north and east of us, as all are hardy enough for our climate, thus allowing us to select the best and most productive varieties without regard to hardiness, as it is not probable that any healthy apple tree was ever winter killed in Butler county, and very rarely that the most tender peach tree is injured.

"The immunity of fruits and the trees from the ravages of insects in root, trunk and leaf as well as the fruit itself, is very noticeable, as no serious injury has been done by any insect to our trees, and but little, so far, to our fruits, and this cannot be attributed wholly to our being a new country, as millions of the various pests that prey on fruit and tree, have been imported into our county with trees and fruit, but our climate and soil does not seem to favor their increase. Our congenial climate and mild temperature, fertile and thoroughly drained soil inspires all that investigate this subject, with the brightest prospects for the fruit growers of Butler county in the future, and this, coupled with our nearness to the great markets of the mining regions of the west, and large increasing southern markets for the staple fruits, promise large returns in cash in the near future to the energetic fruit growers of Butler county."

TAME GRASSES.

Blue grass was first introduced into the state at Fort Leavenworth by the government and for many years, during territorial times, this was all the grass of that kind to be seen in the state. Now there are thousands of acres of what was formerly prairie that are completely sodded with blue grass. Kentucky blue grass with a mixture of red and white clover can be seen in almost every front yard of our town and city residences, while many farmers have a considerable acreage sodded to tame grasses. General Alfred W. Ellet, the late Wright Goodale and a number of others have been successful with tame grasses and the productions of all the varieties grown in the eastern states is no longer an experiment. Hon. J. W. Robison of Whitewater, who was engaged in farming in Illinois for many years, and who has been in this country for some time, writes us as follows on the subject of tame grasses:—

“The last ten years actual growth in this county of the following tame grasses have proven their stability and productiveness on a general average of years to



RIVERSIDE SCHOOL HOUSE, EL DORADO.

equal any of the famous and long tried eastern grass lands of Kentucky and other states east of this: Timothy, red clovers both mammoth and common varieties, orchard grass, tall meadow, oat grass, sometimes known as Rannell grass and red top. In the last ten years not an acre of any of the above grasses have been killed out by drouths or any other cause, and the thousands of acres of smooth, compactly sodded meadows of these grasses now seen in this county, prove beyond a doubt that this county has produced and will grow these grasses in abundance;

and the many stacks of tame hay, seen on the farms of the progressive farmers, add indisputable proof of their yield of last year, the dryest ever known in Kansas. These grasses gave a good yield of the best quality of hay, and the roots lived over without injury by dry weather or Chintz bugs.

"The clover and timothy meadows when mown at the usual time made full growth, that in many fields went to seed with the very light rains that came, only enough to make a half crop of corn; this surely does fully prove that tame grass for hay has, does and will grow in Butler county.

"Blue grass and white clover for pasture grass is not less successful where given a fair chance to grow. If sown on unbroken and unpastured prairie, or on plowed ground and the sunflower and horse weeds let grow in a thick mass twelve feet high, or in the door-yard where the pigs, chickens and turkeys bite it to the ground, a crop need not be expected, but if sown on prairie partly past-



NATIONAL BANK OF EL DORADO.

ured or on plowed ground properly prepared and sown with good live seed, a good growth has been and can be grown, as the few well grown and many patches now so green and luxuriant prove.

"Alfalfa and some other foliage plants have been sown with varying results but not yet in sufficient quantities, nor with the necessary skill and experience to prove or disprove their adaptability to this county."

CLIMATE.

Nothing so aptly illustrates the true meteorological conditions of this latitude as the official report from the State University, at Lawrence. It says that the last severe frost of Spring, in 1886 was on the 5th day of March; the first severe

frost of Autumn was on the 27th of October, giving an interval of 233 days or nearly eight months without severe frost. The average interval is about seven and a half months.

Eastern people are delighted with our balmy breezes and bright skies. In the winter if the thermometer drops below zero, it is but for a few hours, while in the summer when it ranges up in the nineties we invariably have a refreshing breeze, which gives us the most delightful "all the year round" climate in the world. Our altitude is about 1,500 feet above sea level, the air is dry and bracing, heavy fogs, or dull murky days being almost unknown. Pure air is one of God's best gifts to man, and we have it here in its greatest purity. People with lung and throat troubles come here and are cured; weak and debilitated men grow strong and vigorous; old people renew their youth and live to a green old age.

CHURCH ORGANIZATIONS.

From the last report we find that there are in the county—Baptist: Organizations, 12; membership, 590; church edifices, 5; value of church property, \$13,400. Christian: Organizations, 7; membership, 985; church edifices, 4; value of church property, \$15,000. Congregational: Organizations, 1; membership, 40; church edifices, 1; value of church property, \$4,000. Friends: Organizations, 1; membership, 376; church edifices, 1; value of church property, \$18,000. Methodist Episcopal: Organizations, 8; membership, 1,824; church edifices, 8; value of church property, \$24,750. Presbyterian: Organizations, 5; membership, 584; church edifices, 3; value of church property, \$14,500.

BANKS.

Twelve Banks are doing business in the county, as follows: The Banking House of Brown Brothers, Augusta State Bank and the Farmer's Bank, of Augusta; the Banks of Neil Wilkie, W. P. Knote and the State Bank, of Douglass; the Bank of El Dorado, the Exchange National Bank and the National Bank of El Dorado, at El Dorado; the Leon Bank, the Bank of Latham, Whitewater Bank, of Brainerd. The total capital stock of these banks is about seven hundred thousand dollars.

MILLS.

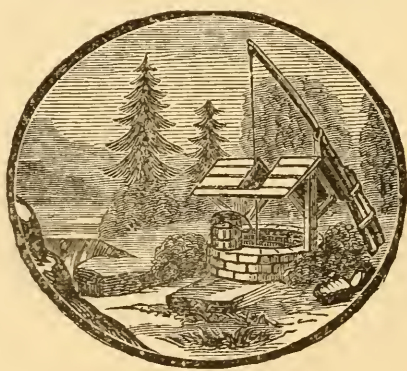
We have a dozen or more new process flour, grist and saw mills, a number of sorghum mills, a half dozen improved water powers, and all the ordinary appliances incident to a new country, with fine opportunities for a greater investment in these directions. As the country improves we will need more and better mills and more money invested in the improvement of our water privileges. Eastern mill owners and gentlemen of experience in milling will find here some fine opportunities for money making in the milling business.

CLASS OF PEOPLE.

It is usually the younger individuals of a community who immigrate; the most enterprising, energetic members of the family who leave home; the brightest boy, who is not content to settle down on the old homestead; hence we have here all the combinations of pluck, energy, brains and experience of the

eastern states. Besides we have a better soil, a better climate and greater opportunities for accumulating property and becoming wealthy than had the first settlers in any of the eastern states.

Many of our people have had but little experience in farming, but they are quick to learn, and with the splendid opportunities, they soon pass from the inexperienced beginner to the prosperous farmer. Eighty per cent of the people we meet have not passed beyond middle life, and being largely made up of the most enterprising classes, they unite with one accord to make Kansas one of the richest as well as the greatest state in the Union. To accomplish this laudable ambition they invite the broad-gauged, industrious and intelligent men from all states and all countries to join them in this great work. To found an empire in a lifetime is their inspiration, to build railroads, construct cities, establish and maintain all the appliances of civilization in one generation is the incentive and that we will succeed there can be no question.



THE CITY OF EL DORADO.

EL DORADO, the county seat of this great county, is very near the geographical center, is the county seat and is the tenth city in population in the state. A handsome, substantial town with miles and miles of sidewalk, with endless rows of shade trees, with solid brick business blocks, beautiful private residences, and a class of people for intelligence, enterprise and public spirit, acknowledging no superior anywhere.

The town did not assume any especial importance till the spring of 1870 when the first rush of immigration commenced coming to this county. The town grew rapidly that year, but with the cheaper class of buildings which have nearly all given way for the more substantial brick of modern design. The old Cherokee Trail from the South to California and the old Government wagon road from Fort Leavenworth to Fort Sill and other points in the Territory, crossed here and for many years prior to 1870, this was a kind of trading point. As the country developed, it assumed greater importance until 1870 when it started out on its march of progress. An interior town surrounded by a rich country, with all the advantages and none of the disadvantages to retard its progress, naturally improves as the country around it settles up. The traveller through Illinois, Iowa and other prairie states finds cities of ten, twenty and thirty thousand people every twenty, thirty or forty miles—trade centers as it were—which grow and develop into commercial and manufacturing centres.

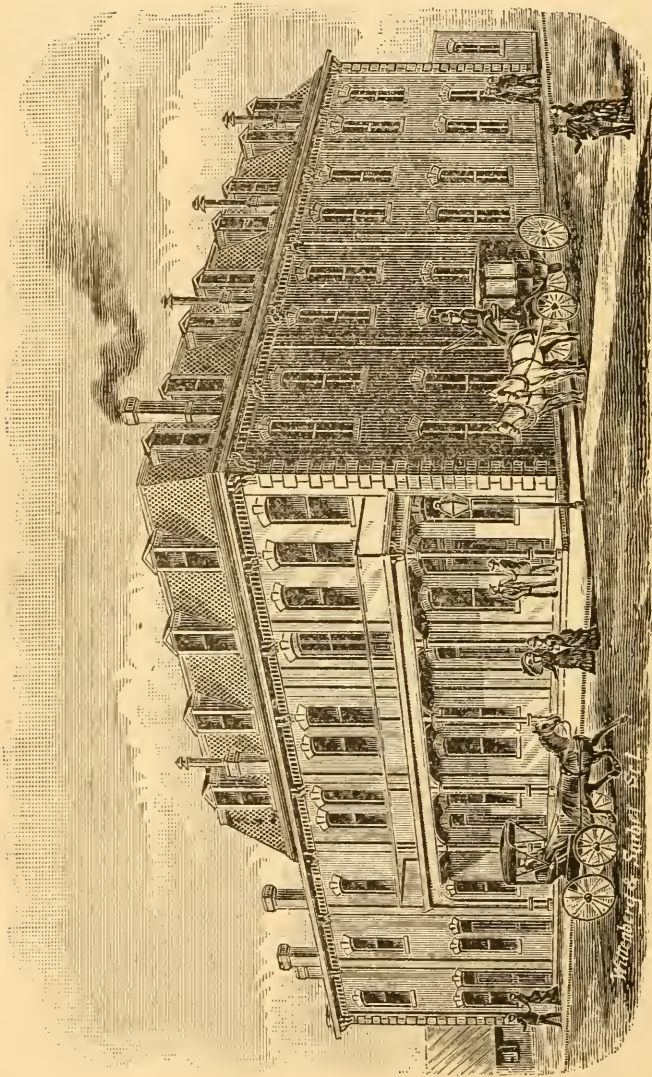
In Kansas we have no exception to this rule, and all over the state trade centres are being rapidly developed. Among the most solid of these we find El Dorado.

Kansas towns are the pride and glory of the state, while El Dorado is one of the most substantial in the long list of first class cities. With all commercial centers, away from waterways, the securing of railways is the first in importance. In this respect our city is second to none in the state.

The Walnut Valley division of the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Road, leaves the Colorado division of the Santa Fe at Florence, traversing the Walnut Valley via El Dorado to Arkansas City. This road was built and is being operat-

ed by the above named company. It is a first class road in every particular, with all the modern railway appliances for speed, safety and comfort. At Florence it makes close connection for the east and west. By an examination of the map it will be seen that this road passes from north to south through the center of the county.

The St. Louis, Fort Scott & Wichita Road, being a continuation of the Missouri Pacific from St. Louis and Kansas City, enters Butler county on the east line, traversing the county through the center from east to west, and crossing the Santa Fe Road in our city. This Road is being constructed rapidly westward, one line going to Colorado Springs, Colorado, where it connects with the same system through the Ute Pass in the direction of the Pacific coast. The other division is

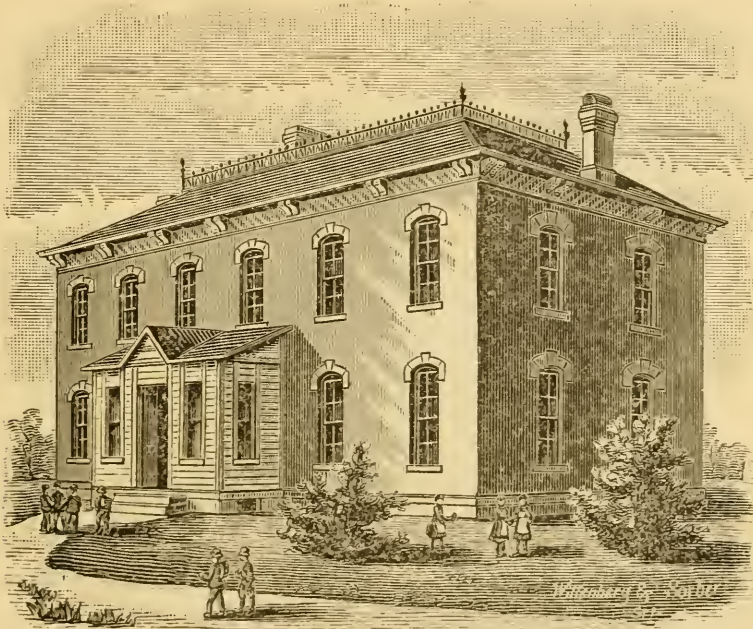


METROPOLITAN HOTEL, EL DORADO.

being built westward to New Kiowa, where it enters the Indian Territory, on it way to the Panhandle of Texas. Behind this great corporation is Mr. Jay Gould, and, what was but two or three years ago a branch road, has now become the main trunk of one of the greatest railway systems west of the Mississippi river

The St Louis, Fort Scott & Wichita company has constructed the McPherson division one hundred miles northwest through the towns of Newton and McPherson, El Dorado being the initial point of this division. This Road will connect with the Ottawa & Salina Division of the Missouri Pacific northwest of McPherson, giving us two lines to Colorado and the great coal fields of that state by this, in addition to the competing line of the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe.

The Chicago, Kansas & Western Railway Company, which is in reality the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe, own a line of railway from Kansas City via Ottawa to Emporia. This is a river valley line, with 22 feet maximum grade and is being relaid with the heaviest of steel for through business. This company is securing the subsidies, and is letting the contract for a double track, west of Emporia to a point called Ellinor. From this last named place to El Dorado, a distance



MECHANIC STREET SCHOOL HOUSE, EL DORADO.

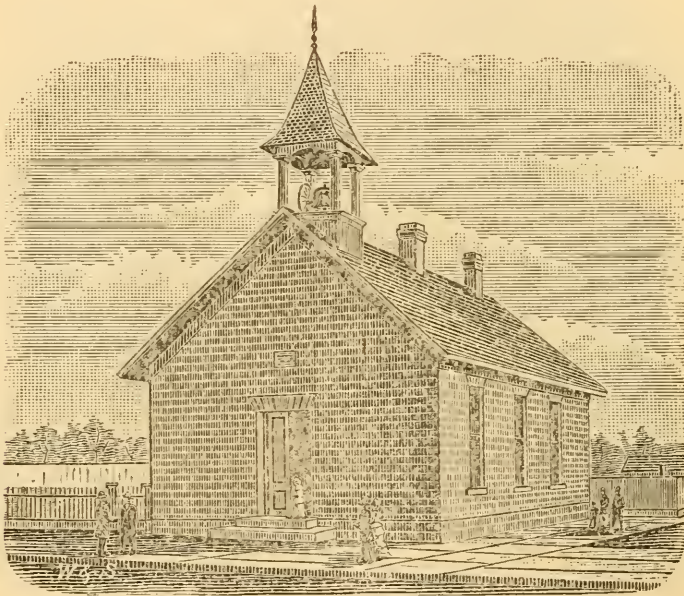
of forty-five miles, the road is nearly all graded and ready for the iron and by the first of April the cars will be running into our city. It will be observed that not only is this an air line from El Dorado to Kansas City, but it is a river and creek valley route the entire distance. This same company, last year, purchased the Gulf, Colorado & Santa Fe road, a line already built from Galveston to Fort Worth. Having secured the right from Congress to construct their line through the Indian Territory, they have been at work all winter at both ends of the line—north from Fort Worth and south from Arkansas City. This connection will be made before the first of May of this year, when this entire line will be put in operation from Galveston via Arkansas City and El Dorado to the Missouri river. This work is being pushed with the greatest vigor and as the line between El Dorado and Arkansas City is already built, and in operation, it will scarcely be sixty days before our city will be on two of the greatest railway lines on the continent.

This company is also building a road to connect the New Kiowa division of

the Southern Kansas road with our Galveston division, which will be completed and in operation by early spring. This road is already under contract for 300 miles southwest from New Kiowa, in the direction of the Panhandle of Texas and Albuquerque, New Mexico; and when completed will be 200 miles shorter than any other line to the Pacific coast.

When it will be remembered that there were fifteen hundred miles of railway built in Kansas during the year 1886, and at least that many miles are under contract for the present year, it is useless to attempt to figure on possibilities. With the lines already built and under contract, we have three lines to the Rocky Mountains, four lines to St. Louis, Chicago and the east, and two lines to Galveston.

In addition, there is under contract the Fort Smith, El Dorado & Northwestern railway, a new line, under entirely different management from any of the



CHRISTIAN CHAPEL, EL DORADO.

corporations now in Kansas. This road gives us another connection to the south, gives us an excellent line to the timbered lands and coal fields of Arkansas and southwest Missouri, and a first-class outlet to the lower Mississippi and the Southern markets, for our flour, pork, corn and other farm products, while it will give us the southern fruits and vegetables in their season.

A new line known as the El Dorado, Oklahoma & Chihuahua road was chartered a short time ago, and active work will commence upon it at an early day. This road is intended to be built through the Indian Territory in the direction of El Paso, Texas.

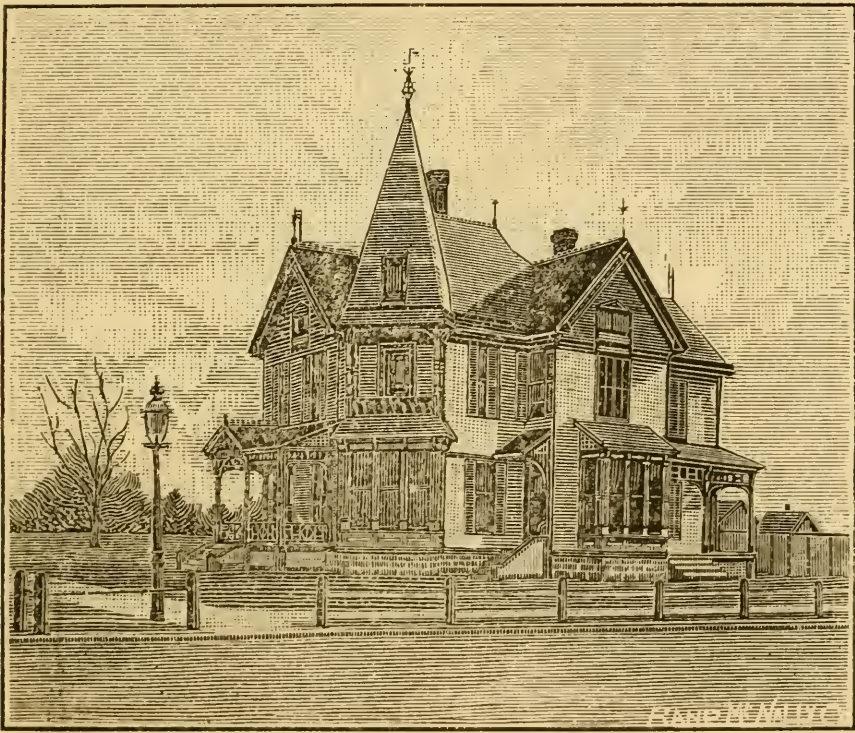
The Union Pacific road has taken out charters for two roads to be built to or through our city. The Lawrence, El Dorado & Texas line is already built from the initial point to Carbondale, and is graded to Osage City. In an interview with the Union Pacific directors, we learn that this corporation intends to build this line as far southwest as El Dorado this year.

This company has also taken out a charter for the Concordia, Chapman & El Dorado road, which will connect with their main line from Lawrence at this

point. The Union Pacific was not heretofore permitted by the government, it being a government subsidy road, to build any branch lines, but now that the restriction is removed by Congress, they will enter the arena and construct a number of important branches this year, the first being the Lawrence & Carbondale extension.

Our city being at the junction of two of the lines of the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe system, that company has secured the grounds, and will erect valuable buildings for the accommodation of the business and traffic of their roads. These buildings, which are to be of brick and stone, will go up this year.

As the St. Louis, Fort Scott & Wichita road has already established division headquarters here for their northwestern line, they will in the near future build extensive machine and repair shops adjoining our city, one hundred acres of



M. M. VAN DENBERG'S RESIDENCE, EL DORADO.

land having already been secured for that purpose. This will also be an eating station on this line.

The Fort Smith, El Dorado & Northwestern road has established its headquarters and will maintain them here. We will have the machine and repair shops of this road, when built, this proposition being embodied in the contract.

As was previously remarked, there are five systems of railway in our state. Three of these have lines constructed through our county; the fourth is grading through the county, while the fifth, which is the Union Pacific, has taken out two charters to build to our town, one line being already partly constructed.

No city west of the Missouri River has better railway facilities or connections, while no city in the west has as many new lines actually being constructed or

under contract. Our city is practically a railway center, which must in time, grow to a magnitude and importance second to no city in the state.

Competent railway authority maintains that a first-class agricultural country, susceptible of a dense population, will support lines of railway ten miles apart. In other words, a railroad can afford to build parallel lines every ten miles. This may, or may not be true, but after all, such opinions from high railway authority, goes to prove that the old fashioned notions regarding the building of roads has greatly changed during the past few years. The comparative cheapness of construction in a prairie country is another inducement to capital-



RESIDENCE OF JOHN FOUTCH, EL DORADO.

ists to put their money in these great public conveniences. With no city within thirty-five miles to dispute our supremacy, and with a vast scope of country tributary to us, railroads, manufactories and commercial enterprises come here, not so much from solicitation, as from natural causes.

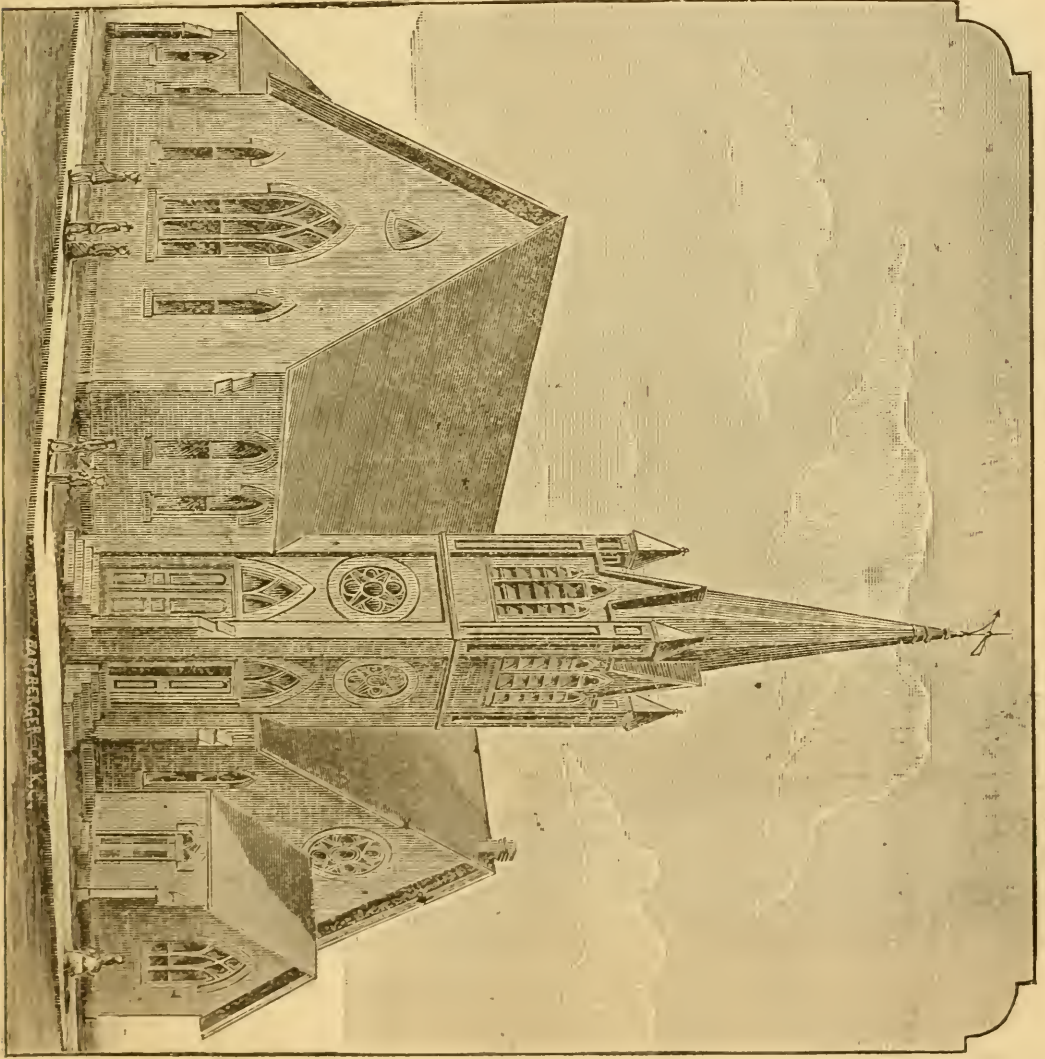
The traffic of this country is largely from east to west, from ocean to ocean, and as our state is central, being neither too far north nor too far south, the arteries of commerce must naturally find their greatest development in Kansas. As these railway lines multiply and as the country becomes more thoroughly settled, all classes of lands must appreciate in value.

With first-class lands and with numerous competing lines of railroad to every part of the country, our lands will as surely advance in prices, equal to those obtained in the most favored spots in the eastern states. There can be no question about it. The Rocky Mountains immediately west of us are full of the precious metals, iron and coal, and will in time become the center of the mining and manufacturing interests of the country, and it will be left to agricultural

Kansas to supply this population with food and raiment; and that it will be immensely profitable there can be no question.

MANUFACTORIES.

Our manufacturing interests have not as yet been very largely developed, but new plants are being added from time to time as the requirements of the country demand. Much of our flour is manufactured at home from home-grown wheat. Numerous water powers have been improved on the Walnut and White-



NEW M. E. CHURCH, EL DORADO.

water rivers while other water mills are in contemplation. These streams are fed by springs, are swift flowing, the fall being sufficient to furnish mill power every four or five miles.

A stone dam was constructed across the Walnut adjoining our city early in the seventies, and a flour and grist mill has been in operation here ever since. New process machinery has been added within the last two or three years so that its capacity is largely increased. The power is furnished by both water and steam. A steam flour mill is also in operation in the northern part of the city.

Two years ago a large Woolen mill was erected in Riverside addition. It is said to be the largest woolen mill in the state. With our railway facilities, and situated as we are, in the midst of the sheep producing region, it will develop into a prosperous manufactory. A large wool firm of Philadelphia, sent an agent here, a week or two ago, with a view of purchasing this property and making it the headquarters for a Kansas house, and using the mill to work up a portion of the wool produced here. The building is of stone and has ample machinery to do a large business. With the completion of our Fort Smith road, which will



RESIDENCE OF MAYOR E. N. SMITH, EL DORADO.

give us cheaper coal, we will have flour mills and elevators erected here sufficient to manufacture and handle the wheat grown in this section, as well as other woolen mills to handle the wool.

The Iron foundry, in Riverside, has been in operation several years, and is turning out good work. A number of the iron fronts for our business houses and considerable light work in our city is the product of this establishment. It is steadily growing and with additional capital will become an important adjunct to our city.

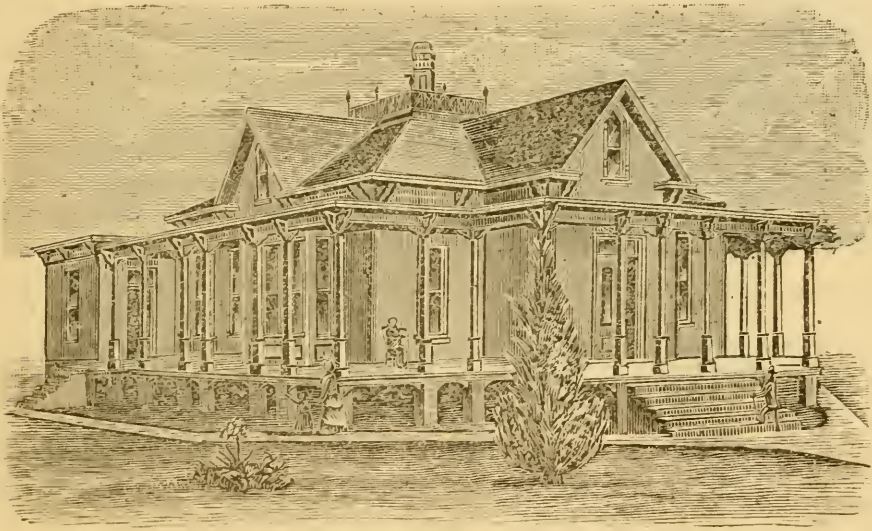
Furniture is largely manufactured here from our native walnut. All the necessary machinery, with first class workmen employed, and a great deal of

household, store room and office furniture is turned out. This, too, is a growing industry, having become one of the most important in the city.

In the southern part of the city are two machine shops, under management of practical machinists, and a great deal of light work is done, including the building of wind mills, the manufacturing of all kinds of machinery. Both started in a small way but have grown with the business of the town.

A very excellent quality of brick is made here, one pressed brick machine being in operation. The clay is good, the bricks burning a light cherry red. We not only make the bricks used in the town, but ship a considerable number to neighboring towns and cities. Brick houses, ornamented with white magnesian limestone trimmings, make handsome as well as durable structures.

We have a large manufactory of tobacco and cigars, which employs twenty-five or thirty hands and which sells goods to an hundred or more towns in this



RESIDENCE OF D. M. BRONSON, EL DORADO.

section of the the state. They occupy a large brick building and are turning out cigars which are fast obtaining a state reputation.

We have wagon and carriage manufactories where work equal to the very best in the east is turned out. Some of the handsomest turnouts in the city were made here, while heavy trucks, hose carts, express wagons and the like are put up in the most substantial manner.

Of course our harness and saddles are very largely home-made, while we have the usual number of tailors, who make our clothes, hardware stores where our tin is manufactured as well as all the other necessary appliances necessary to the success of a bright young western city.

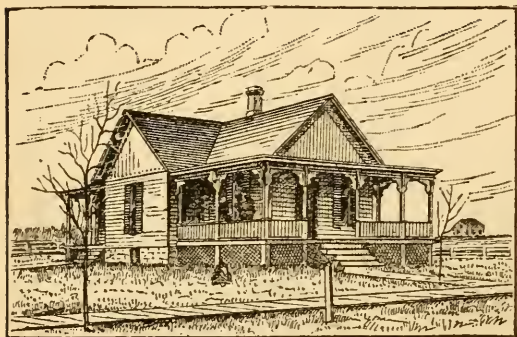
"THE CORN TRAIN."

To partly show the public spirit of our citizens, we refer to the fact that in 1885 southern Ohio, Indiana and Kentucky were visited with destructive floods. Kansas had, in early times, received assistance from the east, and here was an opportunity to repay in kind. General Alfred W. Ellet, one of our leading citizens, at once went to work and in a few days succeeded in securing a train load of corn and flour, which was sent through free to Cincinnati. The engine and cars were artistically decorated with suitable emblems and sent to its destination

with the blessings of the Butler county donors. What more grateful tribute could be paid to any people than that they, with scarcely an effort, contributed from their store-houses and granaries sufficient corn and flour to load an entire train? Butler county did it and was happy in being permitted to thus contribute to the relief of suffering humanity.

LAW, MEDICINE AND MORALITY.

Two dozen disciples of Blackstone expound the law or give legal advice to our people. Fourteen or fifteen followers of Esculapius discuss diseases from a scientific standpoint, while they wait for somebody to get sick. Two undertakers eke out a precarious existence waiting for somebody to die. There are



RESIDENCE OF C. C. WINGERT, EL DORADO.

three weekly newspapers printed in the city, and one evening daily, which has been running a little over a year. A commodious opera house, evinces our taste for something outside of the line of money getting, while our church buildings are suggestive of our growing piety. The city being largely made up of God-fearing, Sabbath-respecting, church going people, to establish and maintain houses of worship is considered a privilege rather than a duty. Whisky saloons and gambling houses we have not.

This may appear strange to eastern people, but it is nevertheless true, that in this city of six thousand people there is not a whisky or beer saloon nor a gambling house.

There are two National Banks with a capital stock of \$100,000 each and one private bank with \$50,000 capital. There are six well ordered drug stores, four lumber yards which handle northern and southern pine lumber while all the other branches of business are fairly represented.

COMMERCE.

Viewed from a purely commercial stand point, but few towns in the state present more favorable surroundings. Our railway connections afford convenient ingress and egress to all portions of the country, consequently trade extends to every township and school district. Then we have no competing towns of any considerable size to divide the trade. Besides, the constant aggregation of population, in districts immediately adjacent to our city, gives business a force or momentum that demands a constant enlargement of present facilities, and additions of new business houses to meet the growing requirements in all branches of trade. Goods are sold here at about the same figures that they are in the east. Our shops and stores are usually more tastefully arranged, are fitted up with more modern appliances and in every way more attractive. Business is largely done on the cash system which is, of course, much more satisfactory to the buyer as well as the seller.

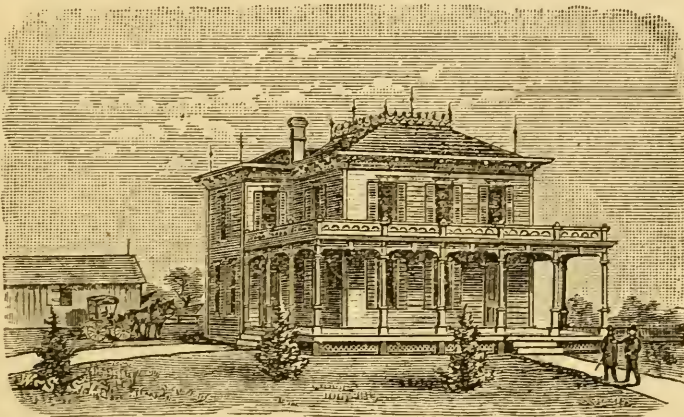
WATER WORKS.

In the matter of water works we have the direct pressure and stand-pipe system combined. The water supply is obtained from large open wells and is pure. The stand-pipe pressure on our main business street is ninety pounds to the

square inch. The city is fairly supplied with water mains so that we have one of the best systems of water works in the state. In connection with our water supply we have hook and ladder and hose companies, well organized, with all the appliances for the prompt putting out of fires. Our water works cost between fifty and sixty thousand dollars.

SOCIETIES.

The various societies and secret organizations are fully represented. The Odd Fellows own the building in which their hall is located. The lodge is large and flourishing. The Masonic fraternity have purchased property and let the contract for a three story Masonic temple to be of brick and cut stone 55x100 feet to cost fifteen thousand dollars. The Knights of Pythias and United Workmen have strong organizations. The Woman's Christian Temperance Union have the



RESIDENCE OF F. P. GILLESPIE, EL DORADO.

means and will build this year, while the Young Men's Christian Association have under contemplation a handsome hall to be erected this summer.

TELEPHONE AND STREET RAILWAY.

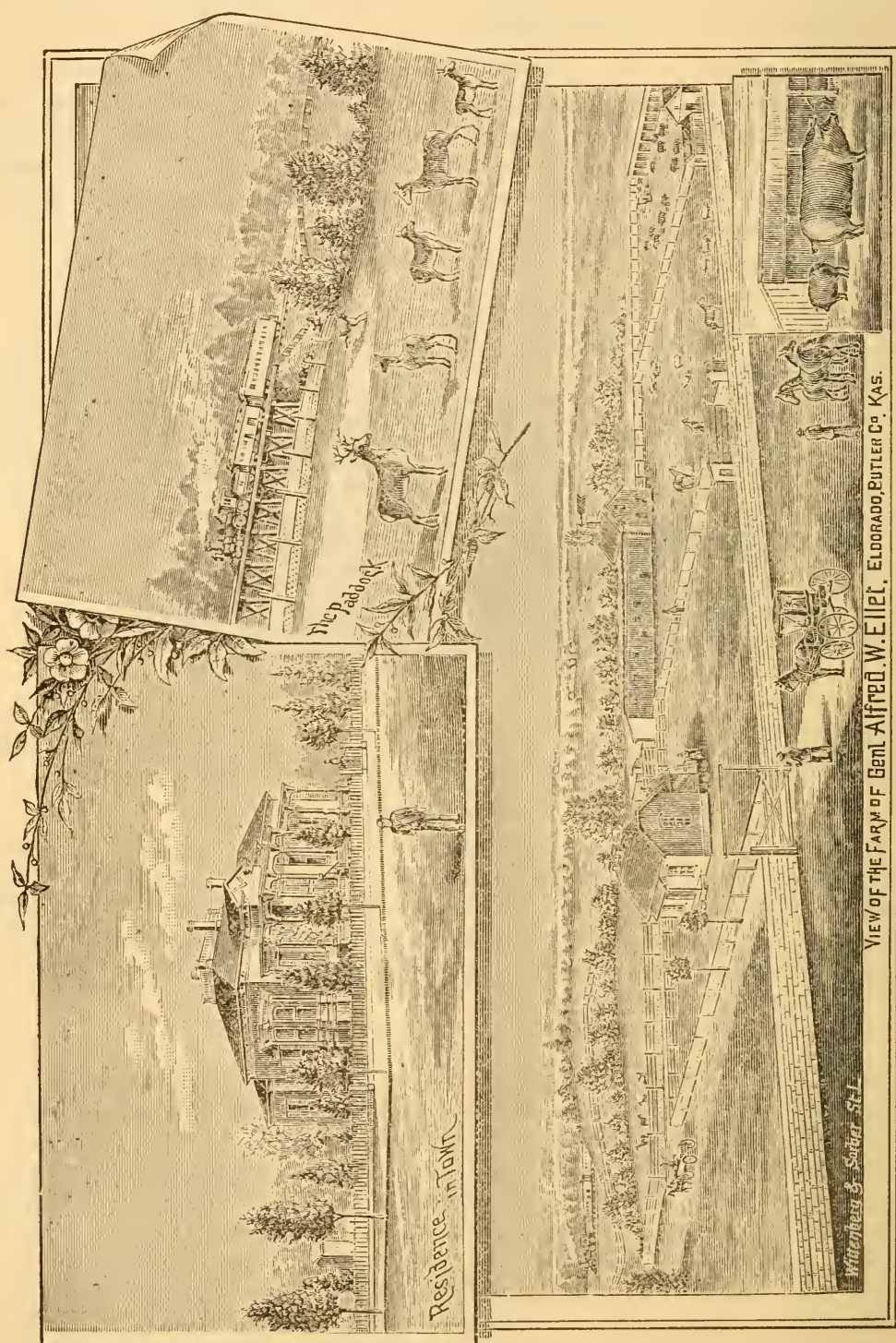
A charter has been secured for a telephone system and enough subscribers have been secured to warrant the putting in of the plant during the year. A charter has also been taken out for a street railway and within a year street cars will be running in our principal streets. Western towns, brim full of western enterprise, secure and support all these modern conveniences far in advance of cities three times the size in the east.

CHURCH ORGANIZATIONS.

Among our church organizations we have the United Brethren, Baptist, Christian, Presbyterian and Methodist, all of which have houses of worship. It will only be necessary to examine the church directory and look up the cuts of church buildings in these pages to be convinced of the fact that we are a church going people. The Methodists have just completed their new \$15,000 building. It is a handsome structure. The Christian brethren will dispose of their present chapel on north Main street and will build as soon as possible thereafter. The Presbyterian people are putting in a \$2,000 pipe organ while the Baptist have just completed an addition to their building. All our church edifices are paid for, the societies are strong and prosperous. First the settlement, then the school house, next the church buildings. This programme has been almost universally adopted in Kansas since the settlement of the State began.

COUNTY MAP.

By examining the county map, which will be found in this HAND BOOK, and comparing the figures on page fourteen, the reader can readily arrive at the pop-



ulation of the various towns in the county and their relative size and importance. This map also shows the forty post offices where our people get their mail,

the location of school houses, mills, streams and railways, together with the boundaries of the twenty-nine municipal townships. This map will prove very convenient to those who may become in any way interested in these pages.

CITY SCHOOLS.

Our public school system is the pride of the city. We have four large brick and stone school buildings in which our twelve hundred school children are taught. These buildings are models of convenience, while our teachers are all required to pass an especial examination before they are employed. Our school laws are as liberal as those of Massachusetts, while our ideas of what constitutes a common school education are in advance of those of our sister states.

DRESSED BEEF.

A New York firm, engaged in the business of slaughtering and shipping dressed meats, has made a proposition to put in buildings and machinery here to cost two hundred thousand dollars, to be used in slaughtering corn-fed cattle and sheep for the eastern markets. Heretofore this industry has been carried on largely in the cities, but the proposition is to establish a plant in the very midst of the fat cattle district, hence these negotiations with our citizens. The proposition has been favorably considered by the city and before the summer is over work will begin on the buildings.

GAS AND ELECTRIC LIGHTS.

A gas plant was put in here during the past year and is being introduced into residences and business houses, about one hundred street lamps having been put in over the city. The works have been in operation but a short time, the city authorities not, as yet, having made any contract for lighting the city. A charter has been taken out for a system of electric lights which will be introduced in the spring.

MUNICIPAL.

Under our organization the city is divided into four wards, the city forming a school district. We have a Mayor and eight members of the city council who serve without pay. In addition we have city Marshal, Clerk, Attorney, Police Judge and Engineer. Three terms of District court are held here each year, three counties constituting the Judicial district. Our county elects one Senator and two Representatives to the State Legislature. The Board of County Commissioners meet here each quarter for the transaction of business of the county.

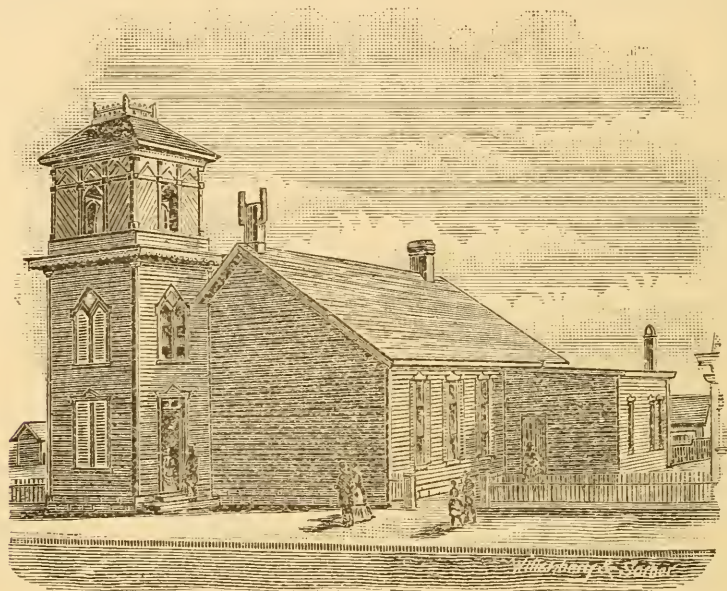
More than twenty brick and stone public buildings and business houses are already under contract, for spring work, while from fifty to one hundred residences will be commenced as soon as the weather will permit. We constructed buildings last year which cost in the aggregate nearly a half million dollars and expect to double the numbers and value this year.

The business cards of many of our dealers will be found in the advertising pages of this HANDBOOK, conveying very fairly to the mind of the readers the various branches of business represented in our city together with the number of each. The various cuts of buildings produced in these pages are but representatives of their class. To print pictures of all our handsome or commodious structures would be beyond the scope of this publication; hence we give only such number as will enable the reader to arrive at a proper estimate of what our city is made up of and how it is built.

In addition to our present hotel facilities arrangements are being made for building a commodious three story structure on Central avenue and Settler street. We already have four brick and two frame hotels and with this addition we will be abundantly able to accommodate the traveling public in a first class manner.

OTHER TOWNS.

Augusta, 13 miles south of El Dorado at the junction of the Santa Fe and St. Louis & San Francisco roads, contains 1,700 people. Douglass, the next largest town has 1,400 people. It is on the Santa Fe road and near the south line of the county. Leon, on the San Francisco, nine miles southeast of the county



BAPTIST CHURCH, EL DORADO.

seat, contains a population of 1,300. Benton, on the Fort Scott road fifteen miles west, has 500 people. Latham, on the San Francisco, 400. Brainerd, on the El Dorado & Newton line, 400. Potwin, on the same line has 300. Towanda, nine miles west on the Fort Scott, 300. Andover, Rosalia, Beaumont, Keighley, Pontiac, Chelsea, De Graff, Gordon and Cassoday are smaller towns of more or less importance.

COAL.

Natural gas has been discovered in the coal measures of eastern Kansas, and also in the foot hills of the mountains. Petroleum has also been found, and that we will find natural gas here, is almost certain. Geologists assert that the formation strongly indicates not only coal, but petroleum and natural gas at a depth of a few hundred feet. In drilling wells in the city and vicinity, crude oil has been found in small quantities, but no effort has, as yet, been made to discover what is in the earth beneath us. Thin stratas of coal crop out in several places within a few miles of the city, while the same formation or strata has been gone through in digging our wells. Coal is found in workable veins, east, west and north of us, and will, in time, be found here.

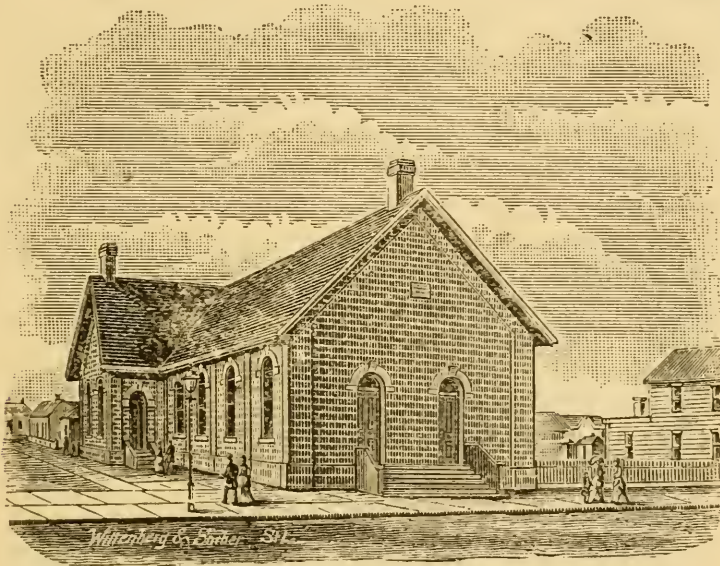
MAGNESIAN LIMESTONE.

Immediately adjoining the city, are two or three valuable white limestone quarries where immense quantities of fine building stone are taken out and ship-

ped west. This stone is of such texture that it can be sawed into blocks of almost any shape, by machinery. It is taken out in great blocks, can be split in any given direction, is easily dressed, is devoid of flint and holds its color after being put into a building. A large amount of machinery is to be added this spring, so that it will be possible for these companies to supply the hundreds of towns in the west, which have none, with building stone from these quarries. The supply is inexhaustible and is growing into an important industry. Our fine building stone will, in time, prove a source of great wealth to the county.

COME WEST.

All through the eastern states are to be found people who have never, in their lives, been but a few miles from home and who really have but little conception of the resources or possibilities of the west. They are prejudiced and not



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, EL DORADO.

inclined to believe anything they hear about this country. To these we say, buy an excursion ticket, come to Kansas and investigate. The trip will cost but little and you will never regret the time nor money spent. Such a trip may be of untold advantage to you and even if you are not pleased with our State, it will be a source of great satisfaction to you to know that you have, at least, seen a portion of this great country in which you live.

SKILLED LABOR.

Wages, for all classes of skilled mechanics, are good; the demand constant. The carpenter, brick mason, stone cutter, or skilled artisan finds no difficulty in obtaining work at remunerative prices. Structures of every class are constantly going up in both town and country and as it will take many years to construct the permanent buildings which will absolutely be required, such labor will not lack for employment.

"THE BIG FOUR."

Kansas has been an object of more or less interest since its organization as a territory; and as has been very often remarked, it is the best "advertised" State in the Union. While this may be true, the attention of the public has not been called to it in an offensive way. In 1861, at the beginning of the war, although we had

a voting population of scarcely twenty thousand, the State sent nineteen regiments to support the Union cause. In 1876, we sent our specimens of grain, fruits and vegetables to the Centennial Exposition, at Philadelphia, and, although one of the youngest states in the sisterhood, we received unstinted praise from everybody. Instead of creating jealousy, in the minds of others, the sentiment was that of pride in the Central Sunflower State. We have entered the arena in competition for the honors and have captured many, which we try to wear with becoming modesty.

As Kansas has been given "every herb, bearing seed, which is upon the face of the earth, and every tree, in the which is the fruit of a tree, yielding seed, and the beasts of the earth, wherein there is life and which is good for meat," of course her people are thankful; and while all Kansas is a sort of garden spot, the south central portion comes nearer the highest ideal of natural perfection than other sections or divisions. Butler is known throughout the State as one of the "Big Four" counties, where is centered the energy, enterprise, ambition and public spirit of the State. In these counties are to be found the biggest farms, the largest orchards, the finest stock, the largest cities, the greatest railway mileage, the best land, the finest streams, the best opportunities for investment.

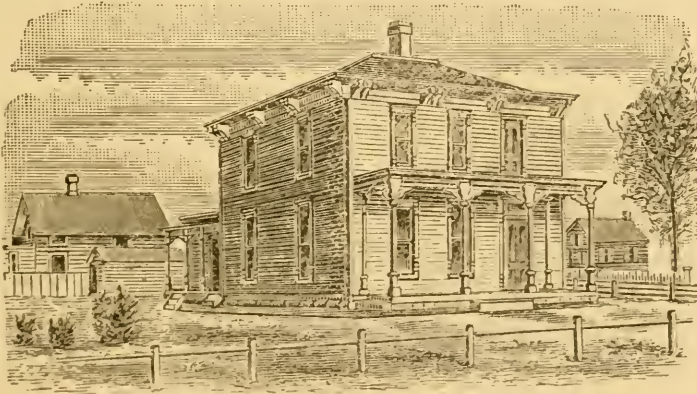
Statistics prove these statements, examination and observation verify them, while recorded facts establish them beyond contradiction. In this garden spot is the city of which we write. The eastern reader may be skeptical, but it is only necessary to come here to be convinced. Men have come here, removed for a time, gone elsewhere, roamed the world over, came back and are content to remain. This has been the rule since the settlement of the State began; and will be as long as time shall last. The bracing air of the winter months, gives vigor and elasticity to the step, while the summer breeze is one of the inestimable blessings.

In visiting our State you will not feel a stranger in a strange land. On the other hand you will meet people from your own State, possibly from your own town or county, who have had experience, in whom you will have faith and confidence and who can give you more practical knowledge of Kansas than you can probably obtain from any other source. If, in looking through these pages, you are not impressed with the idea that golden opportunities are awaiting you and your friends, if you are "well fixed" where you are and have no desire to come west, we trust you will, at least, have been entertained, and that your knowledge of the west has been increased. We might suggest, in this connection, that you probably know a friend or neighbor who is a searcher after knowledge in connection with the west. In that event it would be highly proper for you to hand these descriptive pages to him. This would be conferring a favor on us and might be doing a favor to him. We are all more or less interested in the growth and development of our common country and if opportunities are offered here that are not to be found in more eastern states, we deem it a pleasure to make the fact known. This is legitimate and laudable.

There are hundreds of people in El Dorado, who, while they are busy with their own affairs, will find time to entertain "the stranger within our gates" and take pleasure in doing so. In confining ourself to the facts we have endeavored not to overdraw the picture, nor to exaggerate. We love our adopted State and take pride in making known its resources and opportunities for money-making and money-getting.

AND SO FORTH.

Our sidewalks are largely laid with great slabs of gray limestone, cut in squares. We burn Pennsylvania and Colorado anthracite coal, in our base burners, Canon City coal in our grates, and ordinary bituminous or Colorado coal for cooking. An occasional nabob has a corner fire-place and a wood fire. Party lines are not closely observed, the majority of the voters being more inclined to attend to business than to discuss politics. In a straight party contest the Republican vote largely predominates. As the average age of our population is much less than in the east—owing to the fact that the younger people come west—our mortality record is small, and it still holds good in some places, that it is necessary to kill somebody to start a grave yard. We plant elms, hard and soft maple, cottonwood, catalpa, chestnut, walnut and evergreen trees for shade or ornament. As 77 per cent of our rain fall occurs during the “growing months,” and as our soil is compact, we have the best roads in the world, the highways equaling the best macadamized roads the greater portion of the year. A cold snap usually gives us from six to ten inches of ice for summer use. We have prairie chickens, quail, rabbits and water fowl, for the sportsmen. In the matter of fruits and vegetables we have the best the world affords. Our beef and pork cannot be surpassed. Fish from our own streams or from the lakes are al-



RESIDENCE OF J. T. ANDERSON, EL DORADO.

ways in market. In fact we have everything of the best and cheap. There are numerous creameries in the vicinity, which produce the finest of butter. Chickens, turkeys, geese and ducks are staple commodities and always in the market. Coon skin caps and buckskin pantaloons are no longer fashionable, while sod houses have unanimously gone further west to “grow up with the country.” To improve, beautify, adorn and make comfortable the home, the school or the church is the first duty of every citizen. To plant trees, grow a blue grass lawn and embellish it with flowers, is the ambition of all. To build here a city of fifty thousand population, is our desire and that we can do it everybody believes. The ground hog may “come out” and see his shadow, but that does not mean six weeks of cold weather in Kansas. We no longer have “15ct corn.” We have stopped burning it for fuel and do not plant our potatoes “in the moon.” Our agricultural society owns 40 acres of well improved land adjoining town on the east, and we have the annual Fair and horse trot. To attempt to estimate the population of this city two years hence, would be as difficult as it would be to guess at the number of pumpkins that would be in a ten acre field in Kansas after the seed had been put into the ground.

A PERSONAL WORD.

The author and compiler of these pages has been in Kansas thirty years, having removed here in 1856, when he was a youth. He was here when the population was confined to a few thousand settlers near the Missouri river, and has witnessed the phenomenal growth since that time. With over a million and a half population, surrounded by all the advantages which go to make a prosperous and happy people, could there be any good reason why he should not have the greatest faith in the future of the state? During the last seventeen years he has resided in El Dorado. He came here when it was a frontier trading post, and has been an eye-witness to its steady advancement. He has in that time seen the "illimitable sea of prairie grass and sunshine," bounded only by the horizon, transferred into farms, villages and cities. He has encountered all the trials and vicissitudes incident to the settlement of a new country, and has witnessed this marvelous development without faltering in the faith of the ultimate outcome. The ground has been broken, the foundation laid. The pioneers have by patient, persistent labor, learned to read the weather, understand the nature of the soil, and its capabilities, solve the climatic influences upon the grass, the trees and the fruit, and thus become master of the situation. Now that all this has been done, now that the experimental period has passed, now that to "tickle the earth with a hoe" is just as sure to bring forth an abundant harvest as in any region on the face of the earth, we can be excused for our enthusiasm in praise of this great country, for our unbounded faith in its glorious future.

We have visited every state and territory west of the Mississippi river, have been in the towns, cities and mining camps, have traversed the cattle ranges of the southwest and are conversant with the people of many states, and can say without fear of successful contradiction that there are fewer really poor people in Kansas than in any state or territory we have ever visited. What more can be said in favor of a country than that all the people in it are prosperous? Did the hundreds of thousands of eastern people who are "crowded for room," who have a desire to obtain farms for their children, who labor "from sun to sun" and never get ahead, and who would go west if they really knew where to go, absolutely knew all the facts in relation to our state, and its future possibilities, we would gain a million in population before the year 1890.

For further information we refer you to the following list of responsible Real Estate Firms of El Dorado, Butler county, Kansas:

J. R. SMITH & Co,	Central Avenue.
D. A. WEYER,	Masonic Block.
TURNER & FISHER,	Corner Main Street & Central Avenue.
BOSWELL & MEEKS,	Childer's Building, Central Avenue.
TRICE & NORRIS,	Corner Central Avenue & Main Street.
W. E. MCGINNIS & Co,	Central Avenue.
A. McCASKEY,	Hamilton's Office Block.
J. W. HEISER,	North Main Street.
BUSH & DEBRA,	Hamilton's Office Block.
D. M. BRONSON,	Central Avenue.
C. C. WINGERT & Co,	Wingert Block.
DOUGLASS, KEYS & Co,	Central Avenue.
A. J. PALMER,	Walnut Valley Land and Loan Office.
S. E. BLACK,	Central Avenue.
MARSHALL & BRENTON,	Hamilton's Office Block.

RAILWAY TIME CARDS.

FLORENCE EL DORADO & WALNUT VALLEY RAILWAY.

Leased and operated by the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Company.

GOING NORTH.

Kansas City Express.....	9:26 a. m.
Accommodation.....	3:25 p. m.

GOING SOUTH.

Kansas City Express.....	7:05 p. m.
Accommodation.....	9:25 a. m.

Daily except Sunday. All passenger trains make close connections at Kansas City with Pullman Palace sleeping cars for Chicago, St. Louis and the east.

ST. LOUIS, FT. SCOTT & WICHITA RAILWAY.

MISSOURI PACIFIC.

EAST BOUND.

No. 2 Passenger.....	8:45 p. m.
No. 4 Passenger.....	10:48 a. m.
No. 8 Freight.....	1:29 p. m.
No. 12 Freight.....	10:30 p. m.
No. 14 Freight.....	2:25 p. m.

WEST BOUND.

No. 1 Passenger.....	7:08 a. m.
No. 3 Passenger.....	6:05 p. m.
No. 7 Freight.....	12:20 p. m.
No. 11 Freight.....	2:45 a. m.
No. 13 Freight.....	9:35 a. m.

Elegant Pullman Palace sleeping and chair cars attached to passenger trains running between El Dorado and St. Louis, via Ft. Scott, in connection with Mo. Pacific Ry to St. Louis without change, arrives at St. Louis Union Depot 6:50 a. m., daily in time to get breakfast and make connection with trains of other roads for all points east.

EL DORADO, NEWTON & MC PHERSON.

MISSOURI PACIFIC.

NORTHWEST.

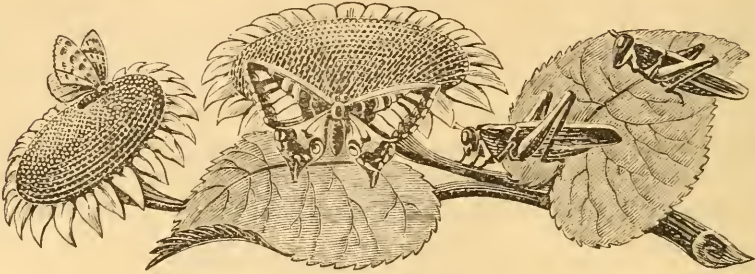
No. 21 Express, for Newton.....	7:15 a. m.
Accommodation	12:30 p. m.
No. 22 Express (Arrives).....	8:30 p. m.
Accommodation	10:50 a. m.

Close connections made with St. Louis & Ft. Scott division for all points east and west.



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EL DORADO REPUBLICAN



THE OFFICIAL PAPER OF THE COUNTY.

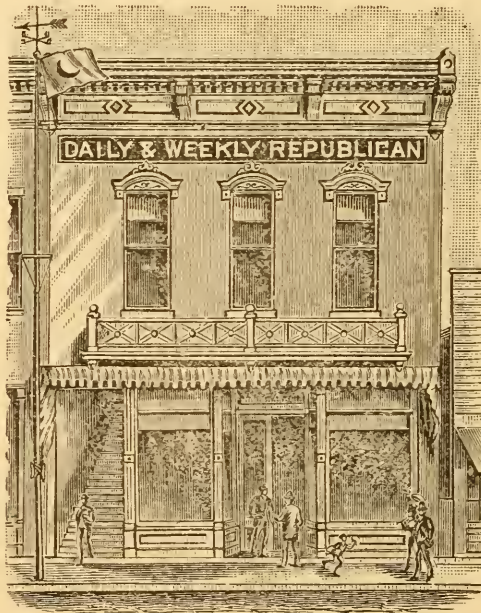
✧ DAILY AND WEEKLY ✧

✧ ————— By T. B. MURDOCK. ————— ✧

Daily Edition, per year	\$5.00
Weekly Edition, per year	\$1.50

A broad gauged liberal newspaper.

— THE MOST COMPLETE —
JOB & OFFICE
 — In Southwestern Kansas. —



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 —Furnished on Application.—

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ADDRESS,

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GENERAL ALFRED W. ELLET,

—Of El Dorado, Kansas, owns a number of—

Bottom Farms, Stock Ranches,

AND IMPROVED LANDS,

Which he wishes to dispose of on most favorable terms. Write to him for further information.

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W. L. GIBSON

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ROBBINS, GIBSON & HOYT,

Land, Loan & Insurance Agency.

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We represent 17 of the leading Insurance companies. Write Insurance on Business, Farm and Residence Property against

Fire, Lightning, Tornado, Cyclone and Wind Storms.

We negotiate loans for eastern capitalists on first mortgage securities. Correspondence Solicited.

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CONTRACTORS AND PLASTERERS.

Ornamental Work a Specialty.

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We guarantee first-class work, and as fine a stock of frames as there is anywhere. We take your photo as quick as lightning. Call and see for yourself.

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El Dorado, Butler county, Kansas.

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EL DORADO, KANSAS,

WITH J. J. CARSON AS ITS PROPRIETOR,

Is the largest and best equipped Clothing, Hat, Cap and Gents Furnishing establishment in the Southwest; situated in the center of the best business block in the city, on the west side of Main street, room on first floor, 100 feet deep with a frontage of 24 feet with sky light in center, giving a perfect light throughout the house. The clothing department is under the direct supervision of the proprietor, who has had more than twenty years experience in the business, through all its graduations, first, with the largest Piece Goods establishment in the east; then for several years with one of the largest Clothing Manufacturing Houses and then eight years successful retailing in one of the largest markets in the east.

The Furnishing Goods and Hat department are under the supervision of Messrs, John R. Brooks and Gus Schmucker, who both have been brought up in and thoroughly understand their business. The stock carried by the Golden Rule comprises everything essential to Men's, Boys and Children's wear, and, has a capital actively employed of fully \$25,000, and is now doing a large business on a small margin. There is an idea in the east that values are all inflated in the Great Southwest. We wish to say this, to those who are coming to our county, that you will find our Store room large and commodious and as well filled as any of the eastern cities, and goods are sold on a closer margin, from the fact, our business is all on a cash basis, and can be done for less profit than on the old credit system in vogue throughout the east, north, and the south.

If you are coming to Butler county you need not load yourself down with Clothing to last you for two or three years; we will guarantee to furnish you all you want at as low, if not lower prices than you can buy the same goods for in any eastern city.

H. J. HOUP, T.

Owens a Fine Farm of One Hundred Acres,

Immediately west of the city of El Dorado, Kansas.

[SEE PAGE 24—BUILDING.]

THE NATIONAL BANK OF EL DORADO.

JOHN FOUTCH, President.

F. P. GILLESPIE, Cashier.

J. W. ROBISON, Vice-President.

E. K. MORRIS, Assistant Cashier.

The Largest Paid up Capital of Any Bank
IN BUTLER COUNTY.

Paid up Capital,	-	-	-	\$75,000.00
Surplus,	-	-	-	25,000.00

The National Bank of El Dorado does strictly a Banking business. Neither officers stockholders nor customers are permitted to invest its funds in speculative enterprises. So prudent and cautious has been its management that it has never lost one dollar of its loans. The stockholders of the National Bank are all successful business men and represent an aggregate capital of \$500,000.00.

DIRECTORS:

John Teter.

J. W. Robison.

A. L. L. Hamilton.

E. N. Smith.

F. B. Ewing.

F. P. Gillespie.

John Foutch—[See page 32 for residence.]



C. H. SELIG,



DRUGGIST,



El Dorado,

-

Kansas.

THE OLDEST ESTABLISHED

DRY GOODS AND



GROCERY HOUSE



In our city. Full lines at all times. Located corner of Main and 4th ave.

Call and see him.

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ESTABLISHED 1875.

NATIONALIZED 1884.

— THE —

Exchange - National - Bank,

OF EL DORADO, KANSAS.

(See page 10.)

Capital and Surplus,	-	-	-	\$75,000
Undivided Profits,	-	-	-	14,822

The Old Pioneer Bank of the Walnut Valley.

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THE GROCERS.

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Carry Everything usually kept in a first class Grocery.
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Finest line of fresh and salt meats in the city will be found in the same building.

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LIGHTNING RODS, ORNAMENTS,

And Fixtures of all kinds.

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Plans and Estimates Furnished on Short Notice.

For sample of work see M. E. Church.

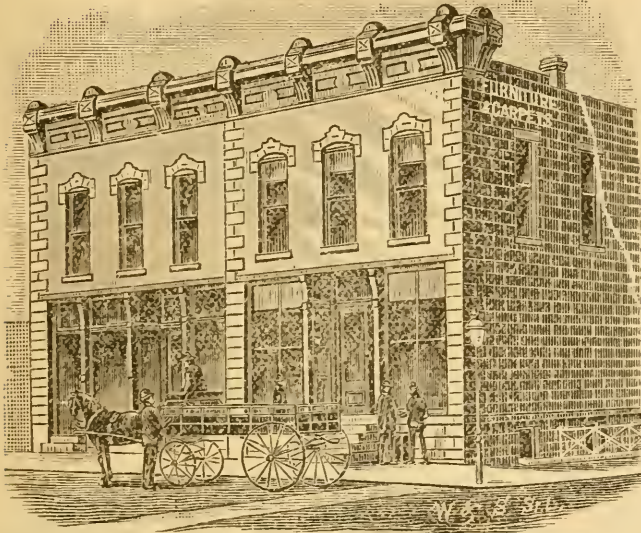
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In my stock of Furniture you will find all grades of goods from a match-safe to a Mahogany bedroom suit.

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In Carpets, anything from a common hemp to a velvet Brussels.

Would be pleased to show you goods, quote prices and deal with you liberally.

101 and 203, SOUTH MAIN STREET.

My factory is fully equipped. Will do all kinds of job work, turning, sawing, scroll sawing and planing by experienced men, and on short notice.

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The oldest drug house in El Dorado, Kansas.

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(COUNTY ATTORNEY.)

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Office, Court House.

El Dorado, Kansas.

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El Dorado, Butler County, Kansas.

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El Dorado, Kansas.

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Call on O. S. BASSETT,

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VARNELL & CO.

Palace Meat Market.

Also wholesale and retail dealer in ice.

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El Dorado, Kansas.

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Leading Dry Goods Establishment of Butler County.

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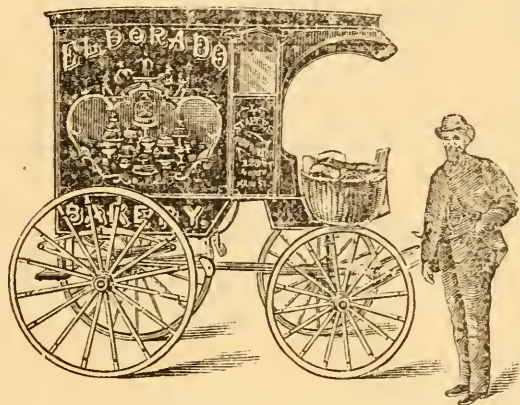
Buying our goods for cash and in large quantities, we are able to make the very lowest prices.

Strangers, when in the city, are invited to call whether wishing to buy or not.

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First Class Bakery.

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School books, school supplies and seats. Base ball goods, hammocks, &c.
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First-Class Turn-outs at all Times.

East Central avenue,

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The **LARGEST AND MOST COMPLETE** Clothing House
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WE KEEP A FULL AND CORRECT LINE OF
MEN'S, YOUTH'S, BOYS, SCHOOLS,
CHILDREN'S AND KILT SUITS

In conjunction with Hats, Caps, Trunks and Valises.

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Shingles, Sash, Doors,

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Cincinnati National Bank, Cincinnati, Ohio.
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⌘ E. N. SMITH, ⌘
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 EL DORADO, KANSAS.

Will promptly attend to all business entrusted to his care.

⌘ RED FRONT ⌘
 LIVERY AND FEED STABLE.
 SHIVELY BROS., Proprietors.

204 and 206 South Main Street, El Dorado, Kansas.

Good turnouts. Careful drivers. Special attention given to horses left in our care. Charges reasonable.

BAXTER & LARUE,
 PROPRIETORS OF CITY STABLES.
 LIVERY, FEED AND SALE STABLES.
 South of Metropolitan Hotel.

We shall always keep in readiness good turnouts for business and pleasure driving.

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ESTABLISHED 1870.

A mirror of the growth and development of the county.

Republican in politics.

Will issue a daily after March 1st, 1887.

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Wholesale Tobacco, Cigars and Smokers' supplies

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Practical Stone Cutters and Masons.

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Estimates for stone work and excavations promptly furnished.

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Established at El Dorado 1883.

The Leading Boot & Shoe House in El Dorado.

We carry a large line of

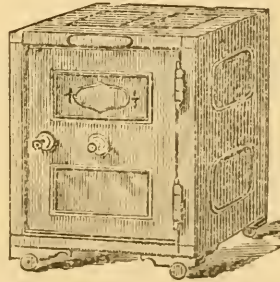
BOOTS, SHOES & RUBBER GOODS.

Represents the best known and most reliable foot-wear manufacturers in the United States. Everything in foot-wear from an infant's to a man's from the cheapest to the finest grades of goods, at prices which has gained for them the bulk of the shoe trade for the county. Square and upright dealings is the rule of this house.

THE RELIABLE U. S. - - - - - A. E. ROSENBERG, MANAGER.

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SAFE. ✠

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20 years of practical experience. Good work or no pay. Engraving done by electricity. No other work its equal.

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(For cut of building see page 28.)

— Centrally Situated. —

El Dorado, Kansas.

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Iron pipe, engine brass work, rubber and hemp packing, force and lift pumps, gas fixtures, etc.

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Wedding and Birthday Presents a Specialty.

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Go to Bryan & Ewing
—FOR—

✧ Choice Groceries, ✧

Fine Teas and Coffees a Specialty.

Our prices makes customers happy and competitors sad.

Corner South Main Street and Fourth avenue, - El Dorado, Kansas.

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His studio is east side Main street, one-half block south of National Bank. Mr. Kemp will be found always ready to catch the "shadder quicker en a wink." Kemp's photos are scattered through nearly every state in the country. The Walnut Valley Times contained 22 of his photos in the mammoth edition. This pamphlet is filled with his views. Send him 50 cents and receive "dry season samples," mailed to any address. Views of any special business or property made to order on short notice. Photo work of all kinds done in first class shape. Give him a call if you visit the city, and get an interesting memento of your visit.

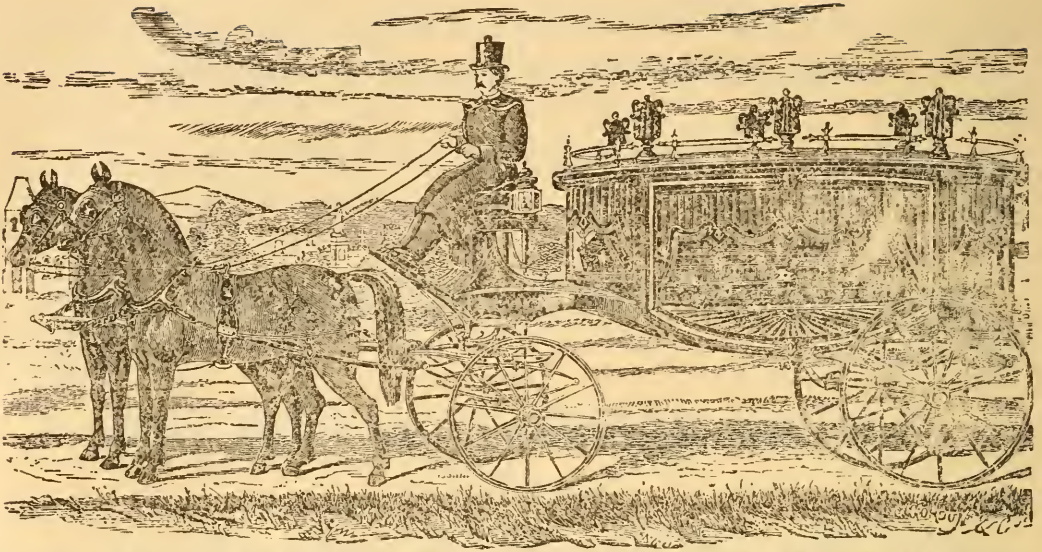
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Fish, Game, Oysters, &c., in season. Cash paid for
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The finest line of Groceries in the city will be found in the same building.



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F. SMITH & SON,
Leaders in Low Prices.

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MCANALLY & NOBLE,
Dealers in all kinds of

FURNITURE

We carry the Largest and best selected stock of
Furniture in Butler County.

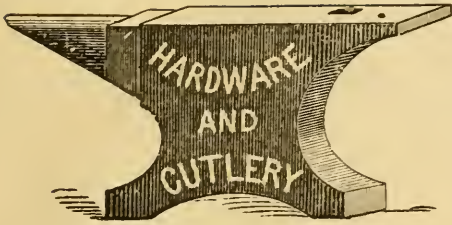
Elegant silk and imported mohair and domestic plush parlor suits. Bed room suits in mahogany, cherry, walnut, antique, oak, ash and maple. Desks, Secretaries, hall trees and sideboards, leather and carpet upholstered chairs, and a complete line of dining and kitchen furniture; a large line of window shades, &c.

And to those who contemplate coming to Butler county we will say our prices are as low as eastern prices. Any correspondence will be cheerfully and promptly answered.

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No. 112 East Side Main Street.

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HARDWARE & IMPLEMENT
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General wholesale and retail dealer in Shelf and Heavy Hardware, Stoves, Tinware, Farm Implements and Machinery. Wind and Steam Engines.

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It pays to trade with him.

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OLDEST IN THE COUNTY.

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WATCHES, CLOCKS, JEWELRY
AND SILVERWARE.

Repairing neatly and promptly done.

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Office No. 403 Central Avenue,

El Dorado, - - -

Kansas.

EL DORADO CHURCH DIRECTORY.

METHODIST EPISCOPAL:—Corner Central Avenue and Oskaloosa street. Services: Preaching every Sunday at 10:30 A. M., and 7 o'clock P. M.; Class meeting immediately after morning services; Sabbath school 2:30 P. M.; Young People's meeting on Wednesday evening and regular church prayer meeting on Thursday at 7 o'clock, P. M. To these services all are cordially invited.

Residence, just east of church.

JAS. C. HALL,
Pastor.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH:—Corner Central Avenue and Merchant street. Services: Preaching every Sabbath at 10:30 A. M., and 7:30 P. M.; Sabbath school at 12 M.; prayer meeting at 7:30 on Wednesday evening.

Residence, Corner Oskaloosa and Fourth Avenue.

S. McC. ANDERSON,
Pastor.

BAPTIST CHURCH:—Corner Mechanic street and Sixth Avenue. Services: Preaching every Sunday at 10:30 A. M., and 7:30 P. M.; meeting for prayer Wednesday 7:30 P. M.; Sunday school at 12 M., H. H. Grover, Superintendent. Strangers in the city and those having no regular place of attending worship are most welcome to any or all of these services.

Residence, Corner Mechanic street and Ninth Avenue.

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Pastor.

CHRISTIAN CHURCH.—Main street, between 6th and 7th Avenues: Services Sunday at 11 A. M., and 7:30 P. M.; prayermeeting Wednesday evening; choir practice Friday evening; missionary meetings Thursday afternoon; Sunday school 9 A. M.

J. M. KERSFY, Pastor.

UNITED BRETHREN CHURCH.—Corner Denver street and Cave Spring avenue. Preaching, Sabbath morning 11 o'clock; evening at 7 o'clock; Sabbath school at 3 P. M.; prayer and class meeting Wednesday evening. To all of which you are cordially invited.

P. MILLIGAN, Pastor.

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**This book is under no circumstances to be
taken from the Building**

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